Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-128
Tuesday
5 July 1988

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Nicaragua Proposes 2-3 Aug Ministers Meeting

PA0207033388 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0232 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 1 July]

[Text] During the sixth meeting in Tegucigalpa of the Esquipulas II Executive Commission, which comprises the Central American foreign ministers, it was agreed, in accordance with the system of rotation of sites, that the ministers' next meeting would be held in Managua. To set the date for that Executive Commission meeting, the Central American Foreign Ministries were consulted, and the following replies were received:

The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry proposed 14-15 July, dates that were accepted by El Salvador and Nicaragua. Honduras has not responded to that proposal. The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry replied that the foreign minister had a commitment on that date that would keep him outside the country until the end of July.

In view of these circumstances, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, through an official note, has sent invitations for the next meeting of the Executive Commission to be held on 2-3 August 1988.

ALADI Countries Reach Regional Trade Agreement

PY0207124988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0025 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Jul (TELAM-ANSA)—Today the representatives of the ALADI countries—Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela—approved, 3 years after stating their political decision to strengthen trade among themselves, a regional agreement for the recovery and expansion of regional trade. The agreement will make possible the diversion toward regional suppliers of some $8 billion allocated to imports from other countries.

According to ALADI sources, the agreement reached after 3 days of deliberations in Montevideo must be officialy approved by all parties before 15 July.

According to diplomatic sources, the initial goal of diverting 30 percent of all extra-regional imports back into the region had to be reduced to reach an agreement. The sources said the amount of the final agreement is no more than 10 percent of all regional imports. The program will start on 1 January 1989, a full year after the original date.

The diversion of trade will be accomplished by dropping 60 percent of customs duties for a series of products on a list. The same products coming from other areas will have to pay full duties. According to ALADI statistics, the region imported $58.223 billion worth of products from other regions in 1987. Only 14.7 percent of this total, or $8.63 billion, was imported by member countries from other countries in the region.

The sources stressed that this percentage did not change much in the last 3 years, while total imports from ALADI countries dropped in relation to total world importats, from 3.7 percent in 1982 to 2.3 percent in 1987.

The new multilateral agreement signed today states that member countries have until 31 July to present the list of products that will be incorporated into the agreement before 1 December 1988.

The relatively less developed countries in the region (Bolivia, Ecuador, and Paraguay) will participate with a minimum volume that will not be less than 2 percent of their total bill for imports, while larger countries (Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico) will divert up to 45 percent of their purchases from outside the region back into the area.

Cuba

Commentary on Downing of Iranian Airliner

FL0407165088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1533 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] While Americans enjoy a holiday today to celebrate Independence Day, more than 200 Iranian families are in mourning because of the destruction of a passenger plane by Yankee missiles.

U.S. television is carrying in its newscasts reportage on Independence Day along with more details on the destruction of the Iranian plane which resulted in the death of 290 people.

The traditional military parade held every 4 July at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington will have a special (?character) this time since members of that naval force were the direct authors of the destruction of the Iranian passenger plane.

To summarize, while the Stars and Stripes waves atop festive masts, the banner of the Iranian people is at half mast. Only 150 bodies have been found in the Gulf waters.

USSR Armed Forces Chief To Visit 'Shortly'

FL0207155688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev, first deputy minister of defense and chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, will shortly visit Cuba, it was officially announced today in Moscow. The announcement indicates that Akhromeyev's official and friendly visit at the invitation of Army General Raul Castro, minister of the FAR, will take place in the first half of this month. The exact date was not given.

Risquet in Europe; Briefs Officials on Talks

Meets Mitterrand Adviser

FL0207112188 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1007 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes has stated in Paris that UN Resolution 435 on Namibian independence is the key to the negotiating process regarding southwest Africa. Speaking at a press conference after meeting with Michel Audibert, adviser to President Francois Mitterrand, Risquet analyzed the latest round of quadripartite talks in Cairo and explained that the talks had regressed because of South Africa's deceitful stand about Angola.

The Cuban leader said it was hard to trust a regime such as that of South Africa, which has illegally occupied Namibia for the past 22 years, which is scorned by the international community and which supports counterrevolutionary bands in Angola and Mozambique. Risquet said that Cuba would continue to report on the negotiations as it did in Italy and France. He will travel on to Belgium and Portugal for this purpose.

During the press conference at the Cuban mission, Risquet told journalists that Cuban, Angolan, and SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] forces in southern Angola are capable of making the racists listen to reason and of enforcing the law. Risquet, who is also a member of the PCC Secretariat, described as absurd South Africa's version of the Cuban-Angolan response to the invading army in Tchipa, southern Angola, an action which began in reaction to a Pretoria attack. Risquet gave assurances that Cubans are not interested in staying on in Angola a day longer than necessary because we have no geopolitical interests there.

We are not a big power to have that kind of interest, Risquet noted. We do not own land or companies there; there's only the noble ideal of helping the brother people of Angola.

Blames RSA for Clashes

AU0107174288 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Paris, July 1 (AFP)—Friday Cuba's leading negotiator on the conflict in southern Africa said that South Africa was responsible for the fighting that flared earlier this week in southern Angola, close to the Namibian frontier, and that Havana sought an "honourable" peace, not war.

Senior party official Jorge Valdes Risquet dismissed accusations by Pretoria that Angolan and Cuban troops had started the fighting.

Mr. Risquet, who led a Cuban delegation in four-nation talks on Angola in Cairo last month, was in Paris to inform French officials on the progress of the talks and on the situation in Angola, where Cuba has an estimated 45,000 troops.

He said that South Africa still had troops in Angola despite resolutions by the U.N. Security Council, and disputed the casualty figures issued by Pretoria after the fighting at Calueque, in southwest Angola.

Pretoria said Wednesday that Angolan and Cuban forces had lost some 300 dead, with only 12 South Africans killed.

On the South African losses, he said Pretoria was "only counting the whites, and ignoring the black soldiers who are accompanying them as if they were sheep", he said.

"That is the philosophy of apartheid", he said.

Criticising the "illegal presence of South African troops in Angola and Namibia", he said Cuba would take part in "any negotiations".

On the U.S. mediating role in negotiations between Angola, Cuba and South Africa, Mr. Risquet pointed to talks this week between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi saying: "they are strange mediators".

A further round of four-nation discussions is scheduled to take place in the United States in the week starting July 11.

Received by Italy's Andreotti

FL0107030988 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Giulio Andreotti, Italian minister of foreign affairs, has received in Rome Cuban leader Jorge Risquet, with whom he analyzed the development of the last round of negotiations on the conflict in southwestern Africa.

The member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo began his European tour in Italy. The purpose of the tour is to inform several governments of that continent about the progress of the quadripartite talks, whose second session ended in Cairo last week.

During the meeting, coinciding opinions were expressed by Cuba and Italy with regard to the need to put an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia. The need to reject the racist practices of the apartheid regime was also expressed.

Andreotti and Risquet recalled with emotion the South African leader Nelson Mandela, who turned 70 recently and who has spent more than 26 of those years in prison.

Meets Belgium's Tindemans

FL0407133988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, was received by Leo Tindemans, Belgian minister of foreign affairs, this weekend in the (Val Duchesse) Chateaux, official headquarters of the Brussels Government.

Risquet informed Tindemans in detail about the progress of the quadripartite talks for a solution to the southwestern Africa conflict. In particular, Risquet informed him about the development of the last round of talks, held in Cairo.

During the meeting with the Belgian minister, the South African report to the effect a racist lieutenant killed 200 or 300 Angolan and Cuban soldiers was denied. Furthermore, the truth was clarified concerning the strong response to the South African provocation of 26 and 27 July in the southern area of the People's Republic of Angola.

Arrives in Lisbon

FL0407134088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, has arrived in Lisbon to inform the Portuguese Government about the details concerning the progress of the quadripartite talks on the conflict in southwestern Africa. In particular, Risquet will inform them about the development of the last round of talks, held recently in Cairo.

The next meeting among Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States is scheduled for 11 July in the United States.

Meets Portugal's Soares

FL0507033388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0312 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Today Portuguese President Mario Soares received PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes, who informed him about the negotiations on southwest Africa. Risquet Valdes heads the Cuban side of a joint delegation with Angola which recently met in Cairo with representatives from South Africa and the United States to discuss the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435 for Namibian independence. During their meeting, which lasted approximately 90 minutes, President Soares and Risquet agreed that Resolution 435 must be implemented and that peace must be brought to southwest Africa.

Vice Minister Briefs Nujoma on Cairo Talks

FL0207121888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1204 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Today Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, met in Helsinki, Finland, with Giraldo Mazola, vice foreign minister of Cuba. Mazola, accompanied by Oscar Fernandez Padilla, chief of the PCC's southern Africa section, was a member of the Angolan-Cuban delegation that attended last week's talks with South Africa and the United States in Cairo. The main focus of the meeting was the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435 for Namibian independence. Mazola extensively briefed Nujoma on this meeting.

Mazola also explained other issues debated at the quadripartite talks in Cairo.

FAR Report on Angola Fighting Given to UN

FL0207123988 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Cuba has presented a FAR Ministry report to the UN General Secretariat rebutting accusations by South Africa and reiterating our country's solidarity with Angola. The document was delivered by Alberto Velasco San Jose, Cuba's alternate ambassador to the United Nations.

The FAR report states that the Pretoria government is trying to create an international uproar surrounding the air strike against South African military camps in the area of Calueque, southern Angola, carried out on 27 June by the Cuban-Angolan Air Force. Cuba alleges that this action occurred in response to a South African attack with long-range artillery against Cuban-Angolan positions at Tchipa, south of (Chama), in Cunene.

U.S. Suspension of Sugar Purchases Recalled

FL0207164088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1223 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] On a day like today, 2 June 1960, the U.S. Government passed a law suspending sugar purchases from Cuba, thus stepping up its economic pressures against our country's revolutionary government. Used to measuring everything in dollars, the imperialists thought that by depriving us of our main source of foreign exchange, they would force us to stop the application of the revolutionary laws that affected the interests of the national oligarchy and of the United States. They never thought that their measure would soon meet with a convincing response when the Council of Ministers backed up the president of the Republic and the prime minister in nationalizing Yankee property in Cuba.

These were very difficult days because of our economic dependence on the United States, but the Soviet people, party, and government stretched forth their generous hand and promised to buy our sugar.

Further Reports on CPSU All-Union Conference

FL0107215588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] The CPSU conference will close in the Kremlin tonight, Moscow time, with voting on seven resolutions. CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev will deliver the closing speech. The nearly 5,000 delegates to the conference began their work at 1000 today when there were still more than 100 delegates on the list of speakers. The conferees will continue today to examine the report Gorbachev presented on the opening day, Tuesday.

One of the most salient points in the report is the reform of the Soviet political system, which has created an atmosphere of lively and animated debate among the delegates. Gorbachev has already stated in the course of the conference that the CPSU will not give up its governing role. On the contrary, he said, we want to confirm it; in this case, the point is to reinforce the power of the soviets with the authority of the CPSU.

For its part, PRAVDA continues to cover the delegates' remarks on Gorbachev's main report, both those in favor and those at odds with some of the report's elements. Commenting on the conference, PRAVDA says that the discussions are only productive and constructive when they touch on the Soviet man, his main concerns and needs. Although there is no doubt that truth can emerge from them, PRAVDA says, unanimity is not always reached.

Among other things, the seven resolutions to be voted on tonight concern the intensification of the process of restructuring and democratization of society.

Gorbachev Closes Meeting

FL0207142388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1004 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has asserted that the principal result of the 19th CPSU All-Union Conference, just concluded in Moscow, is the clear program for political action now available to the party. Delivering the closing speech, Gorbachev said that the conference was successful in its demands, not only in content but also in methods, that the CPSU fully become an organization of Leninist principles. The CPSU general secretary stated that the restructuring program drafted at the 27th CPSU Congress and further enriched in these 3 years of perestroyka has the support of the population.

Gorbachev also referred to the important contributions the delegates made with their speeches. This atmosphere (?reflects) the democratic development achieved within the party and society, he emphasized.

Gorbachev called for the mobilization of the powerful resources of the party and the people to immediately apply the agreements reached at the CPSU conference. He said that the main achievement of this conference was to have come up with a strategy for the present phase of restructuring. Glasnost, or openness, took center stage with the delegates' sincerity and courage in setting forth their views. Gorbachev added that the consensus was that the USSR media should continue with this openness. In concluding, he urged them to publish the conference's resolutions as soon as possible and to mobilize the people to implement them.

Official on Public Support

FL0207144888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1202 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] The principal political result of the just-ended CPSU conference has been support for reorganization. This was stated at a news conference by Georgiy Razumovskiy, candidate member of the CPSU Politburo. The general view of the conferees was that the meeting gave greater impetus to the strategy for change and its implementation in the USSR.

Razumovskiy's assessment was also shared by the Soviet press and most foreign journalists in Moscow, who say that the conference made it clear Soviet Communists supported the socialist option and the need to renew that option.

The Soviet leaders consider that the success of perestroyka will hinge on the degree of public participation. The conference was encouraging evidence that social activism is increasing.

Anatoly Lukyanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed that strong ties had been forged between the masses and the delegates. Never before had I seen such a close link to the people and such lively debates on the country's most pressing issues, Lukyanov stated, adding that it was perestroyka itself which made this impetus possible. He told reporters that after the convocation was announced last year, the CPSU Central Committee received a million letters on diverse matters, while 50,000 different proposals were sent to the conference. In addition, he said, some 400 citizens came to party headquarters to set forth their views and ideas.

Rights Group Postpones Visit Until September

FL0407204488 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1936 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The UN Human Rights Commission has postponed its visit to Cuba until September. The visit had been scheduled for the first week of August. This was confimed today in Geneva by commission Chairman Alioune Sene. According to his announcement, the visit had to be postponed because several members of the group are also members of the human rights subcommittee which is going to hold an important meeting next month in Geneva.

The commission, responding to an invitation from the Cuban Government, had agreed in March to send a 6-person delegation headed by Alioune Sene to observe the practice of human rights in our country. In addition to Sene, the delegation, which is now to arrive the first week of September, is made up of representatives from Bulgaria, Colombia, Ireland, Nigeria, and the Philippines.

Haiti

Ministry of Information on New Commissions

FL0107214788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] A press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination states that on 28 June 1988 the president of the military government appointed two commissions that will be in charge of managing the interests of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

The first commission is made up of citizens Jacques Saint-Louis, Reginald Riboul, and Jean Rosier Decardes. It is for the Chamber of Deputies. The second commission, for the Senate, is composed of citizens Gerard Romulus, Francois Bergrome, and Jose Wasembeck.

We are going to meet with these officials to obtain more details on the functioning of these chambers. These two commissions will operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior and National Defense.

Father Aristide on Church 'Silence' After Coup

FL0107213088 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1700 GMT 30 Jun 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In an interview with us, the Reverend Father Jean Bertrand Aristide spoke about Haitian events. He talked mainly about the silence observed by the Catholic Church after the events of 19 and 20 June 1988. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording Aristide, in progress in Creole] ...the church's position at the heart of this crisis. Let's first of all note that for people to say the bishops are the church is a theological distortion. This is both true and not true. It is false when people say, simply because the bishops have not spoken out, that the church has not spoken. The bishops are not the church. The bishops themselves are aware of this. [passage omitted] The bishops are members of the church. They are the elder brothers in the church. The church is God's people, as defined by Vatican II.

Thus, in connection with the current crisis, we can say that the bishops have not officially made any statement heard by all of God's people. However, in practical terms, the church has indeed spoken. [passage omitted] When a grass-roots church group or one or another group in the south, east, or west communicates its anger through the indifference exhibited when the coup d'etat was carried out, this is a way of talking. It is something they didn't get on the radio to say but which they are nevertheless expressing. [passage omitted]

Sometimes the bishops speak for the entire church. However, there are also times when what the bishops say is not what the entire church wishes to say. That is why, without speaking of division, of two churches within the church, I sometimes speak of the distance and the difference that at times exists between what the bishops say and what the majority of the church says. For example, on 7 February 1986 the bishops called for reconciliation, reconciliation. The rest of the church, the majority, saw farther ahead, spoke more clearly, and said, yes reconciliation, but justice must also be done. [passage omitted] And back then, it would have been easier to judge a series of big macoutes, who would then not have been around on 29 November to shoot the population. [passage omitted]

Only God knows how much the apostolic nuncio fought "Operation Uproot" [rache manyok la, an allusion to last summer's demands that the National Government Council step down]. And God alone knows whether the apostolic nuncio doesn't have a large share of responsibility for everything we are going through now. Officially, he does not appear to be engaging in politics, but in practice he institutes a policy that does not always go in the direction of the policy God wants for His people. God wanted His people to tell the truth, and they did when they began

"Operation Uproot." Unfortunately, neither the apostolic nuncio nor certain other bishops were able to hear the voice of God's people and obey it. They preferred to organize themselves to send people out to participate in elections. What did this lead to? To bloodshed.

This is why I think it is time for the apostolic nuncio, the bishops, myself, and any other priest or nun to listen, now more than ever, to the voice of God's people, the majority of whom see that in order for things to change, there must be participation by the entire mass of God's people, in unity, in communion with the Episcopal Conference. To put it another way, the Episcopal Conference cannot simply decide to take it upon itself to decide for the masses of the people. Rather, the decision must be reached together with the masses, so that it will not lead to corpses and to bloodshed, as they realize has happened in the past.

Thus, as far as I am concerned, yes, the church has spoken—a lot. And spoken accurately, if you take the church as being God's people. Unfortunately, the communion that should exist between the Episcopal Conference and the rest of the church has not yet been achieved. [passage omitted] I myself must beat my breast and ask God to forgive me, for example, for not having the patience to wait for God's people to understand, so that I could go at a proportionate, or at an equal, speed—if indeed that occurred. I'm not saying that was the case. In the same way, everyone must examine his conscience to see if he went too slowly or too fast—and I do not acknowledge that I went too slowly. On the contrary, I think that if we had adopted that speed from the beginning, we would not be where we are today. [passage omitted]

And that is why I never believed in elections. I always respected all those who (?wanted) to go to elections, but I never said elections would bring a solution. I always said the solution will be the child of a true revolution. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Beating, Student Riot in Saint-Marc Reported

FL0107204588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] We have a news report from Saint-Marc that would lead us to believe that we were back in the time of Duvalier. The report says that a sergeant has beaten a French engineer who works for Dumez, the company responsible for the work being done on the (Kano) River dam.

According to the soldier, Engineer (Valse) was badmouthing General Namphy. For his part, the engineer says the soldier beat him because he fired his brother.

[Correspondent (Fernand Billon)] Engineer (Valse), the Dumez director in charge of the irrigation work on the (Kano) dam undertaken by the ODVA [not further identified] has been beaten up by Sergeant Olivier, the sergeant posted at the dam. After beating the general engineer, who is a Frenchman, the soldier took him to the barracks in Saint-Marc, where he declared to the captain that the engineer was bad-mouthing the general in power. We contacted the French engineer, who informed us that he was beaten for firing a brother of the sergeant's who was employed on the project.

Also, on 30 June, after report cards were given out at Lycee Stenio Vincent in Saint-Marc, a group of students caused a ruckus at the lycee, declaring that the grades they had received were not the grades they had really earned. They forced their way into the director's office and trashed it. When lycee personnel saw that the situation was getting out of hand, they had to call in the police. If the director had not whisked monitor Roland Alexandre to his home in a car, he would have been beaten by the students, who were on a rampage at the lycee.

There has been a change at the Saint-Marc tax office. Jean Roger Moise, whom everyone in Saint-Marc knows as (Pere Yo-Yo), is now the head of the tax office, after a 16-year career. He replaces Mr Renaud Mompoint, who has been transferred to Cap Haitien, still as a director. Jacques Deshommes has been appointed assistant office chief.

In upper Saint-Marc, in the fourth communal section of Saint-Marc, communal section chief (Edner Philoxene) has been replaced by (Eliphete Parisien). (Philoxene), about whom lies had been spread last week, is still in jail, without as yet having been taken before a court.

This is (Fernand Billon) from Saint-Marc for Radio Soleil.

Technicians Depart; Leave Toxic Waste Behind

FL0107212988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The work of reloading the Gonaives toxic waste stopped at the beginning of this week, approximately on Tuesday, say reports from Gonaives. The technicians who were to remove the waste have taken all their stuff back to the United States, leaving behind 4,000 tons of toxic waste and several containers filled with waste. No official explanation of why these men have left has been given.

In any case, the waste is still there, and following the rains that are falling, the population of Gonaives continues to worry about the danger this waste represents.

[Correspondent (Jean Boucheau Joseph)] [Passage omitted] The wharf watchman said the technicians left because they were disheartened. Also, they did not have the tractors and oil drums necessary to do the work properly. The watchman also said the work was a farce—that no one took his role seriously. Everyone sneaked away. Even the Haitian Armed Forces soldiers posted at the SEDREN wharf are no longer there. [passage omitted].

We remind listeners that it is raining heavily this week. Thus, the waste may seep into the sea around the SEDREN wharf in Gonaives. Meanwhile, all the guilty parties in this mess are walking around freely and comfortably in Haiti.

This is (Jean Boucheau Joseph), Radio Soleil, Gonaives.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Denies Favoring Tobago Development

FL0407211088 Bridgetown CANA in English
1357 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, June 27, CANA—Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson on Sunday refuted criticisms that his administration was favouring development in his native Tobago and neglecting Trinidad.

Speaking at a meeting of the Caroni East constituency of his ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), Robinson said some TT115 million dollars had so far been spent on projects in Tobago. They are seeking to divide and mislead the population and say we are concentrating on Tobago when that is far from the truth, said Robinson, one of the two Tobago representatives in the 26-member parliament.

He said government planned to spend more than 2.8 billion dollars for development in the Trinidad-based energy sector. He outlined projects such as the South-East Coast Consortium (SECC) and the state project to exploit natural gas reserves off Trinidad's south-east coast. Robinson said that 531 million dollars would go into this project.

Robinson's critics have cited developments such as the Scarborough Harbour Project and extension of the island's runway as examples of favouritism by the NAR administration.

On Friday, former junior finance minister, Trevor Sudama, referred to Tobago as the promised land during debate in parliament. Ministers in Robinson's government, however, have explained that the country's tourism thrust—aimed at raising foreign exchange as well as creating jobs—is best suited for the picturesque sister island.

Parliamentary Secretary in Food Ministry Fired

FL0207132588 Bridgetown CANA in English
2334 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, July 1, CANA—Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson has fired parliamentary secretary in the Food Production Ministry, Eden Shand, over comments calling on people to burn down squatters farming lands.

Shand, a forestry expert who has often been billed by the ruling party as a journalist, had made the comments at a June 7 environment seminar.

Shand—often a zealous environmentalist—had pointed to the menace to forests caused by squatters who often cut and burn down trees to set up their homes and their gardens. His specific suggestion had been to go up into the hills with spray cans and cutlasses and destroy all these crops.

I say the time has come for us to deal with those who wish to destroy our lives...if one or two or three or 100 of these people are threatening our lives, then we must renege on that promise not to break those shacks down, Shand had said. For every illegal square patch of land established in the northern range about to be planted and sown with seeds by illegal squatters, I say that this nation is entitled to march into those hills with cutlasses and spray cans and destroy all those crops.

His comments were an open violation of ruling party election promises to resettle squatters, rather than bully them.

Shand had first attempted to apologise, stating in the local media that he had not meant to be taken literally. He then published a further letter of apology in the press this week.

Prime Minister Robinson, who had been out of the country at the time, had spoken to Shand when he returned here to media calls for the parliamentary secretary's dismissal.

While I deeply appreciate your expression of regret and frank admission of error, I do not think that in the public interest this action should be taken, Robinson said in a letter which Shand received Thursday. I have noted your apology in the media and commend you for this course of action. Robinson advised acting President Michael Williams, however, to revoke Shand's appointment, leaving him simply as another of government's many backbenchers in the House of Representatives. I have to pay the price for that error, Shand told reporters Thursday night. This is fair and it is quite fair when one is in political life to pay the penalty for grave errors. I hope the price I am paying for highlighting a very serious problem will not be in vain and that the problem will be treated with the seriousness that it deserves.

Shand said he now had more time to deal with resolving the squatting problem by seeking help from the Settlements Ministry on a new idea of his.

Shand is the fifth casualty of the 18 month ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) although the previous dismissals of ministers had been over political infighting in the two and a half year old party.

Prime Minister on Possible Tougher Drug Laws

FL0407210488 Bridgetown CANA in English
2032 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, June 26, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago is looking at toughening its anti-drugs laws, perhaps including provisions for forfeiture of unexplained increases in wealth, according to Prime MInister A.N.R. Robinson.

Robinson gave an update on the local drug scene, in a Saturday night nationwide address to mark the June 26 United Nations (UN) day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The illicit trafficking in drugs is financed and master-minded by criminal individuals and organisations with international links and with accomplices in financial circles. They also have connection with the illegal weapons trade, subversion and terrorism, Robinson said. It is the real evil empire—a third and sinister superpower with enormous destructive capacity. This is the nature of the enemy we are fighting. Its strategies are modified continuously and we would be extremely foolish to ignore or deny the extent or penetration of the evil in our communities, Robinson said.

Outlining government attempts to deal with both demand reduction and prevention of trafficking, Robinson said a cabinet appointed committee was reviewing the country's three-year-old anti narcotics laws with a view to strengthening its provisions. I have myself for some time been advocating the inclusion of provision for forfeiture of sudden unexplained and substantial increase of wealth, Robinson said.

Robinson congratulated local community based groups which had dealt with much of the treatment of drug abuse victims to date stating that he shuddered to think what would have happened without their help.

Robinson gave out figures which showed that admissions for control of marijuana and cocaine abuse in this country had gone up by nearly five times between 1983 and 1986. Trinidad and Tobago's demand reduction programme is being kicked off here Sunday with a series of community organised activities promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle as an alternative to drug abuse.

Robinson said that narcotics trafficking had increased by 8,265 per cent in the two-year period from 1984 to 1986, from 8,250 kilogrammes to 712,778 kilogrammes. We must recognise, however, that drug abuse prevention is for all...we must review our own behaviour continuously as well as many things we previously took for granted, Robinson said. We must be firm and fearless in our resolve to defeat this monstrous menance of drugs. It is the most corrupting and destabilising influence in our country today. It must be fought unrelentingly wherever it exists.

Cardenas Campaign Coordinators Murdered

PA0407135388 Paris AFP in Spanish 1304 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Jul (AFP)—The police confirmed today that the two main coordinators of Mexican candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas' presidential campaign were murdered today by unidentified gunmen and left inside their vehicle in downtown Mexico City.

Police sources cited by the station Radio Red and press reports indicate that the corpses of Francisco Javier Obando Hernandez and Roman Gil Hernandez were found early Sunday morning inside a vehicle. Obando had been shot four times and Gil once.

It was reported that even though the crime was discovered early Sunday morning, the corpses were identified yesterday evening.

The news media could not contact Cardenas, a dissident PRI member and presidential candidate of the National Democratic Front, an alliance of several leftist parties.

The double homicide took place less than 72 hours before elections are to be held in Mexico to choose president, deputies, senators, mayors, and other public officials.

[Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish at 1300 GMT airs a headline item stating that Francisco Javier Obando Hernandez and "a friend" were discovered murdered in downtown Mexico City; no further details were provided]

'Political Terrorism' Deplored

PA0407162488 Paris AFP in Spanish 1543 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 4 Jul (AFP)—Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, National Democratic Front (FDN) presidential candidate, has asserted that the murder of his two main collaborators, which occurred less than 72 hours before general elections in Mexico, "is an act of political terrorism and provocation."

Cardenas issued statements to the news media last night and stated: "We have ruled out theft as a motive for the crime, and we believe this is an act of political terrorism and provocation." He added: "Everything seems to indicate that (the double murder) is politically motivated and we hope violence does not become the reply to the people's demand for democratization in the country."

The corpses of Francisco Javier Obando Hernandez, FDN election coordinator, and Roman Gil Hernandez, his assistant, were found by Mexico City police agents early Sunday morning in Obando's vehicle.

Police sources stated that 40-year-old Obando Hernandez was shot four times in the head and Gil Hernandez was shot once in the head. Several .22 caliber and .45 caliber bullet casings were found inside the vehicle.

The information indicates that the crime occurred after Obando Hernandez and Gil Hernandez left an FDN directorate meeting Saturday evening.

The two corpses were taken to the police headquarters early Sunday morning for autopsies and so they could be identified by relatives and FDN members.

President Miguel de la Madrid and Mexico City Attorney General Renato Sales Gasque immediately ordered an investigation of the crime.

Likewise, Cardenas—a PRI dissident and presidential candidate for a leftist parties' coalition—will meet with Interior Secretary Manuel Bartlett Diaz on Monday afternoon to discuss the case.

According to news media reports, Obando Hernandez had reported in 1986 that he had been harassed and threatened with death by police agents in Michoacan, where Cardenas was governor and attorney general until 1986.

Obando Hernandez' testimony, shown to the news media, indicates that in December 1986, several agents in Michoacan had threatened to kill him, and on 28 December his house was attacked, presumably by police agents.

Obando Hernandez was also candidate for deputy in a Mexico City district. [passage omitted]

Petricioli on Restructuring of Foreign Debt

FL0107152288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0549 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Finance and Public Credit Secretary Gustavo Petricioli has announced that Mexico will renegotiate part of its foreign debt with the international financial community before the present administration's term in office ends.

In an interview with NOTIMEX and TIEMPO magazine reporters, as well as with foreign journalists accredited in Mexico, the finance secretary added that Mexico will apply a new plan based on the debt market and seek the approval of the financial community to use bonds to guarantee the payment of interest on renewable terms for 4 or 5 years until the principal is paid in 20 years.

The goal, he said, is to create a favorable condition for the Mexican economy to begin a new recovery stage for its gross national product and at the same time reduce its debt service which this year will be approximately $8.5 billion.

The restructuring project, he said, which has been submitted for consideration to the principal international financial institutions, consists of issuing new bonds to take advantage

of the discount in the secondary market in order to diminish the amount of debits. He said the so-called zero bonds were the first exploratory mechanism that opened the way for the new strategy which acknowledges that there is no incompatibility between servicing the debt and promoting the growth of the country.

Petricioli said that a good number of banks consider it more important to ensure payments on interest than on the principal itself. [Words indistinct] are working on a plan different from the zero bonds to guarantee total or partial payment of interest during the credit period. The official said that this would guarantee interest payments to creditors for 4 or 5 years. To guarantee payments for 20 years would require a large amount of resources, he said.

The new mechanisms, he added, will allow us to cover economic breakdowns that might prevent the country from complying with its payment commitments. In an extreme case, he said, we would have a cushion of 3 years or more to accommodate the economy and to meet interest commitments which were previously guaranteed by a special endorsement from international financial institutions.

This will be accomplished through the contribution of limited national resources, he said, for obvious reasons. It is necessary to maintain a high international reserve to be able to face possible contingencies, above all declines in world oil prices and increases in international interest rates. These resources, he said, would be placed in a trust to cover the risk of restructuring.

He said that the complementary part—not the least important—will be the international support of guarantees consisting of a country or bank institution willing to guarantee interest payments for a certain length of time with their special endorsement. He noted that the same plan can be applied to the payment of the principal.

The credit secretary insisted that, with the cooperation of several countries and international banks, Mexico can establish a type of contingent credit—without having any actual cash expenditures—to support itself in case it is not able to make interest payments for an established period of time.

Petricioli acknowledged that the figures, amounts, and sums are still open for discussion, as is the case for the institutions in each country which eventually will be able to participate in the program.

He said that this program will be implemented before November if the conditions look good. Even though the date has not yet been officially announced, the international financial community, as well as government and private bank institutions, have received this plan with interest.

Petricioli said the institutions that agree to be agents or to give special guarantee endorsements will have to be given a concrete and specific mandate. He added that the World Bank is the institution that has given the plan the greatest reception. In reference to his recent meeting with high-level World Bank officials, he said they acknowledged that it would be possible to support the program but it will require the willingness of all countries and international financial institutions involved.

The finance secretary added the restructuring would be adjusted to comply with the different legislative positions of each institution that participates. For example, he said, some banks will be interested in the best discount on the exchange rate. In exchange for this, he said, they would be willing to accept a much lower interest rate.

The important thing for Mexico, he said is to negotiate the greatest discount possible on its debt and the lowest interest rate possible for the next 20 years. This shows that we have options to solve our debt problems, he said.

This plan takes into consideration that other mechanisms will not be canceled to minimize the public or private debt, the finance secretary added. The country needs to begin a process of economic stabilization because it is not possible to continue in a period of permanent adjustment he said.

Petricioli said that the country's conditions are encouraging. In this year alone, he said, total exports of oil and manufactured products exceeded $30 billion. However, he continued, the financial commitment continues abroad to allocate approximately 6 percent of the gross national product to pay the foreign debt. Nevertheless, he said, the current administration's policy is not to take the seemingly easier route of not paying or unilaterally lowering payments because this in reality is not a solution. Petricioli said the administration's policy is to seek concerted and market mechanisms.

The finance secretary said that Mexico is confident that countries and financial institutions will respond favorably to implement this program. Any other method, said Petricioli, could prove to be sterile, ineffective, and frustrating.

De la Madrid on Economic Policy, Elections

PA0207044088 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Report by Humberto Mares]

[Excerpts] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid this morning presented a report on his work as Mexican president. He denied that the economic policy followed by his administration is the cause of the country's current problems, which he said are the result of an accumulation of organizational faults.

President de la Madrid also spoke about the upcoming elections. He urged all political parties and the Mexican people in general to fulfill their duty to vote on 6 July, and he confirmed his government's obligation to guarantee clean, nonviolent, and honest elections:

[Begin recording] On 6 July and in the following weeks, we will prove that Mexicans know how to behave properly during the elections. We will prove that Mexicans do not want violence, that Mexicans do not want hatred, and that we know how to distinguish between differences of opinion and the nation's basic unity. This unity is needed to maintain our sovereignty and to defend ourselves in a world in which division is the cause of foreign aggression. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Concerning the foreign debt, President de la Madrid said the negotiations held by Mexico have made us the leader among the developing countries in trying to solve the debt problem. He reiterated that in those negotiations, his government has always tried to benefit the nation's interests. [passage omitted]

President de la Madrid said if Mexico stops paying the foreign debt, it would head toward an international confrontation, which would affect Mexican production.

Urges Voter Participation

PA0507033588 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Speech by President Miguel de la Madrid; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Compatriots: The political time we are going through compels us to reflect on the meaning of holding elections, expressing our convictions, guaranteeing our freedoms, and living under a democratic system in which Mexicans have the opportunity to choose their own destiny and determine Mexico's future together.

The importance of the vote—as an individual endeavor that becomes part of the expression of a collective will, as a legacy, and as a regular practice in Mexico—is not always fully appreciated. It is of vital importance to remember the responsibility involved in this civic act because, on election day, we will not be mere observers or vote casters; we will have the nation's future in our hands. The vote is an instrument of democratic fulfillment. The vote extends the means for participatory democracy and helps perfect our system. The vote will be the mature and pluralistic expression of Mexican society.

On 6 July, we must exercise the simple but basic right to vote for the president of the republic, who will hold office for the next 6 years, and for those who will be our representatives in the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate. For the first time in the republic's capital, we will vote for our representatives to the Federal District Assembly, an institution that will greatly expand citizens' political participation in our district.

In the past few months, political parties have conducted their electoral campaigns openly, actively, and peacefully within a climate of unrestricted freedom, substantially expanding the paths of democracy. I express recognition of and respect for all parties and candidates that have participated in this electoral contest. Their participation has helped strengthen our democracy. The 6 July elections are fundamental. Our free and secret vote is important for Mexico.

Compatriots, we must see reality clearly. Mexico is a stable nation; it maintains a permanent constitutional order and a firm political and social stability. Individual and social freedoms are respected and its institutions are preserved, consolidated, and renewed. I stress today that it is a commitment of the government of the republic to strictly abide by the law on 6 July. The will expressed at the polls will be respected. Citizens, parties, and the government will guard the legality, cleanness, and purity of the elections.

As a Mexican, as a citizen, and in my role as president of the republic, it is my duty to urge all Mexicans not to remain indifferent to this key event. I urge them to cast a carefully considered vote, a responsible and conscientious vote, a vote arising from each person's conviction and, above all, with the nation's best interests in mind.

Mexicans are committed to holding clean, legal, and peaceful elections. Mexicans are committed to preserving our independence and sovereignty. Mexicans are committed to maintaining our freedoms. Mexicans are committed to holding elections in a climate of complete peace and tranquillity. Mexicans are committed to showing that we are an essentially democratic country. Mexicans do not want to lose these values. This is why our vote is important. Mexicans, vote for Mexico.

Thank you; good night.

Salinas Ends Presidential Campaign 2 July

PA0307220088 Paris AFP in Spanish 1235 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Jul (AFP)—The campaign for the Mexican presidency, elections for which will be held on 6 July, ended yesterday with a number of rallies for the main candidates.

The favorite, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the 40-year-old candidate of the PRI (in power for 60 years), gathered hundreds of thousands of people in the main square in Mexico City on Saturday morning.

The organizers estimated that this rally was the biggest ever organized in the country.

As outgoing planning and budget secretary, Salinas promised the crowd an economy "without inflation, without sacrifices, and without a drop in the standard of living," adding that "the crisis is a thing of the past."

As was the case for most of the PRI rallies, observers pointed to the lack of enthusiasm and the passiveness of the crowd, which was made up of workers, peasants, and officials without real political fervor who are generally coerced into attending these events.

Cardenas Urges Mobilization To Protect Vote

PA0307184988 [Editorial Report] Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish on 24 June carries, on page 15, a 2,000-word advertisement from Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, National Democratic Front presidential candidate, dated 23 June in Mexico City. The advertisement is entitled: "Manifesto from Cuauhtemoc Cardenas to the Mexican People."

Cardenas begins by charging that the "historic process in the search for liberty, independence and democracy, sovereignty, justice, respect for the constitution, and equality" that began in 1810 and was strengthened by the Mexican Revolution has been betrayed. He calls the growing "unjust distribution of wealth, culture, and power" and "the outright abandonment of the revolutionary path" as the two central elements in the elections. "Obtaining full democracy is the first step to overcome this crisis," he adds. He credits his "growing rallying drive and the recognition of his political authority" to "the righteousness and viability of his proposals."

Cardenas notes that he has successfully achieved "an undisputed majority in the country that will be expressed in the 6 July elections." Then, he accuses "very high officials of deciding to use all available resources" to obtain a PRI victory. The government tactics include threatening or intimidating voters.

The candidate then warns that he, and the parties supporting him, "will not negotiate the results of the election to turn victory into defeat," adding that they are "not going to remain passive as simple spectators of electoral fraud." In order to ensure the results of the elections, Cardenas urges voters and the representatives of parties joining him to closely follow legal rules. "All incidents, threats, coercions, and procedural mistakes must be reported and denounced in the records of the polling places," Cardenas advises. He further warns that his supporters will "follow every step of the procedure. However, in the end, the chief element is to mobilize the people in defense of the vote." He proposes to do this by organizing the people at each and every crucial step. "Massive and simultaneous mobilization across the country must be the immediate reaction to premature and groundless reports" of victory by the ruling PRI.

The advertisement ends with Cardenas saying: "The confluence and political unity of a huge number of forces in support of our project presages the creation of a new historic bloc that merges capacity with the decision to transform and lead the country in accordance with the best interests of the nation and the Mexican people."

Editorial Predicts 'Valid' Election Results

PA0307142788 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Jun 88 p 6-A

[Editorial: "Valid Elections"]

[Text] Less than 1 week before the elections, the National Action Party, the Mexican Socialist Party, and the members of the National Democratic Front admit, first, that it cannot be said the forthcoming elections will be invalid, and second, that it is impossible to have widespread fraud in our country.

One of the greatest mistakes the opposition has made is to denigrate the elections before they are even held by saying there are plans to commit fraud and by even calling for protests over something that has not yet happened. Now they are willing to accept that the elections will be valid and this means we have made progress. Perhaps the results will be unpleasant for some political parties, but they should be sufficiently mature to admit what the truth—and not the ghost of fraud—will tell them.

This does not mean the opposition should not make an effort to guarantee honesty in the elections. Everyone in the country will benefit if we defeat abstentionism, if votes are respected, and if the voting will result in an administration with clear popular support for the next 6 years. Widespread fraud, in fact, is no longer possible; society has developed a political awareness, and the various parties are much better organized and will not allow any manipulation of the voting. It is fine that the organizations grouped in Adese [expansion unknown] feel it is their ultimate responsibility to guarantee honesty in the elections. As long as this occurs, the results of the elections will reflect the nation's feelings.

Impartiality of Opinion Polls Questioned

PA0307190788 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Jun 88 p 3

[Commentary by Eduardo Cervantes Diaz Lombardo: "A Credible Poll; Cardenas at the Main Square"]

[Text] In our country, the so-called public opinion polls during election time are hardly impartial, not only because they are based on questionable methods and doubtful sampling, but mainly because they tend to be conducted at the request of well-defined political interests. In this sense, the opinion poll serves as an instrument of propaganda to justify beforehand the real results; in other words, the results that are desired by the political interests that ordered the poll and that are, of course, close to the percentages estimated by the poll.

The latest poll taken by Gallup (a well-known polling firm) is indicative and worrisome. First, because the company that requested the poll in the United States has close ties

with Televisa, which makes one suppose that it involves the estimates of the consortium which, as is known, is totally committed to the PRI and its candidate.

Second, it is indicative because of the figures issued: 56 percent for [PRI candidate] Salinas, 23 percent for [National Democratic Front, FDN, candidate] Cardenas, and 19 percent for [National Action Party, PAN, candidate] Clouthier. The implication of such percentages is that of a credible fraud. This is the position of a PRI sector which is, by the way, opposed to that of the old ballot tamperers [alquimistas] who predicted 20 million votes [for Salinas]. This is important because it shows that with less than 2 weeks until the big day, the ruling party has not achieved its traditional consensus, a clear sign that internal political relations are experiencing serious problems.

Despite the attempt to force us to see the democratic face of the government, the contradictions of the Gallup poll are obvious. I stress two of them: It is incredible that 60 percent of the votes in the north have been attributed to the PRI, especially if we compare this with the precarious 24 percent estimated for the PAN precisely in its strong region. This does not even take into account what will happen in such regions as La Laguna where the past preference for the PRI has slipped from the hands of the ruling party.

As for the votes for the PMS [Mexican Socialist Party] (which also count for Cardenas), the Gallup gentlemen showed their great professionalism by mechanically giving it the 3 percent that other polls had previously estimated. This figure, in itself low if we consider the votes historically received by the merging parties, does not take into account the political significance of the new PMS position that will be reflected in a substantial increase of its votes, despite the technical trick [trampa] with the ballots.

The general rumor among citizens that they will not vote for the PRI also contradicts the opinion poll and in another sense might confirm the planning of the fraud. In reply to a question, or even without one, the opinions of your neighbor or friend, the man next to you, or a taxi driver might be dissimilar or uncertain with regard to the way they will vote, but they generally agree in rejecting the ruling party. This fact, a spontaneous and daily expression of a political belief, is more significant as a measurement factor than the Yankee custom of the tabulators and variables that are always subject to the mandate of the one paying and the levels of partiality.

The new state of things emerging in the country at the electoral and political level, after being concealed for a long time as a result of the combination of a relative option (the PRI), an adjustable option (the PAN), and another of slight electoral influence (the left), can be clearly seen and has risen to the surface. It must be reiterated that this has not taken place by chance and that it is the result of the fact that the current government has been punishing the people without respite.

The government's obstinacy was again made clear Tuesday when President Miguel de la Madrid warned that "a moratorium or suspension of debt payments is not advisable for the country because it would lead to reprisals from the international community and would cancel credits for Mexico's future generations."

This reasoning, indicative of a mercantile concept of national sovereignty as well as of the political conduct that has impoverished the country, was the detonator of the PRI failure. No government can (without paying the consequences) act like a worried bettor in the movies who is facing an attack by moneylenders with loaded pistols.

In this regard, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas will close his campaign in Mexico City tomorrow. At the main square there will be a civic reply to the polls made on request (including that of an institution with an air of seriousness: the College of Mexico). It will not clarify the issue of the flimsy numerical estimates but it will probably show the great difference between conviction and obligation, spontaneity and boredom, celebration and funeral, hope and a future snatched away by continuity.

Those who do not see in such expressions and feelings a powerful and increasingly more extensive social representation will continue to be obsessed with the invincibility of a PRI political system, and for the time being will benefit from the astrological inclination of the opinion polls.

PRI Rejects U.S. Pressure on Morales' Case

PA0207234888 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 30 Jun 88 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Legislators Reject U.S. Pressures on Mexico for the Release of Puerto Rican William Morales"]

[Excerpts] PRI senators and deputies yesterday expressed their rejection of any form of U.S. political pressure concerning the release of Puerto Rican independence fighter William Morales. The PRI senators and deputies stressed that Mexico solves its internal problems in a sovereign and independent manner. PAN [National Action Party], however, stated that the decision to release Morales will affect relations between the two countries, while the PMS [Mexican Socialist Party] said that no one can attack Mexico's sovereignty.

Morales' lawyer, Carmen Merino, said the U.S. Government "has no evidence to support homicide charges" against the Puerto Rican independence fighter, who was imprisoned in Mexico. The U.S. Embassy in Mexico stated that Mexican authorities have not informed its officials of Morales' destination. The U.S. Embassy had requested Morales' extradition on charges of illegal arms possession and storage of explosive devices.

Merino, along with Pilar Noriega, defended Morales, a member of the Puerto Rican Armed Forces for National Liberation (FALN), during his extradition trial in Mexico. Merino said that the White House made accusations regarding crimes allegedly committed by Morales but that these accusations had no validity before Mexican judicial authorities.

Merino added: "It is irresponsible" to assert that Morales "is a terrorist," because when the United States requested his extradition, it did not present the necessary evidence to support its case.

According to the Mexican Foreign Secretariat resolution denying Morales' extradition, the Mexican executive branch based its decision on paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the extradition treaty signed by the two countries, which states:

"Extradition will not be granted if the crime for which the extradition is requested is a political crime. If any problem arises concerning the above paragraph, the executive branch of the party from which extradition is being requested must decide the case."

In addition, David Jimenez Gonzalez, president of the Chamber of Deputies Justice Commission, said that the solution to a question regarding the legal or political status of Mexican citizens or foreigners in Mexican territory comes under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Mexican authorities. Jimenez added that "the resolution issued by the Mexican judicial branch on Puerto Rican William Morales' case is correct, legal, and accurate." [passage omitted]

Jorge Pinto, minister counsellor of the Mexican Embassy in Washington, recalled that the recent U.S. Senate vote accusing Mexico of not cooperating in the struggle against drug trafficking and the statements made by U.S. Customs Chief William Von Raab concerning alleged corruption among Mexican officials are also serious offenses on the part of the U.S. Government against Mexico, among others.

PMS representative Amalia Garcia Medina said that the U.S. Government pressure is unacceptable and that there is no reason to change the resolution.

Meanwhile, Francisco Jose Madero, senator for Cohauila State; Armando Trasvina Taylor, senator for Southern Baja California State; and Alfonso Garzon Santibanez, senator for Sonora State, who were individually interviewed, said that Morales was judged and released according to our laws for the crimes he committed here, and "no government can tell us what must be done."

Costa Rica

Arias on Diplomatic Offensive for Nicaragua

PA0307224988 Paris AFP in Spanish 1535 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpts] San Jose, 2 Jul (AFP)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has announced a strong diplomatic offensive to achieve the democratization of Nicaragua and has also reiterated his opposition to a military solution to resolve regional conflicts.

During a weekend tour of the northern part of the country, Arias said that "with a little more pressure," both the Sandinists and the contras will be forced to play "the cards they are still holding up their sleeves" to reach a negotiated settlement. [passage omitted]

The announcement of the diplomatic offensive was made by Arias 1 day after his 2-hour meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, who on Friday concluded a tour of Central America, excluding Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

Shultz's tour seemed to be one of the last efforts by the Reagan administration to pressure Nicaragua by diplomatic means, after the U.S. Congress banned all military aid to the contras in February.

Arias stated that pressure on Managua "should not be imposed by once again firing rifles that have already been silenced—due to a cease-fire in effect since March—but by making them (the Sandinists) keep the promises they made at Esquipulas. [quotation mark as received]

Arias made no mention of the situation faced by El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, which are also beset by internal military conflicts and which, under the peace plan, are committed to promoting a process of negotiation and democratization that has not yet taken place.

Madrigal Deplores U.S. Downing of Iranian Plane

PA0407221288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2130 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] San Jose, 4 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Costa Rican Government "deplored" and "regretted" the downing of an Iranian airplane with 290 people aboard by the U.S. Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf on Sunday.

The airplane, an Airbus A-300 belonging to the Iranair company, was shot down by two missiles launched by the U.S. frigate "Vincennes" in the southern part of the Persian Gulf. In the incident, 66 children, 156 men, 52 women, and 16 crewmen were killed.

"I hope that there will be an in-depth investigation to determine the true causes of this very serious incident, which we so greatly deplore," Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said today.

The foreign minister said that this should be an incentive for "all of humanity" to make every possible effort to end the "bloody and senseless war" being waged by Iran and Iraq, "which gives rise to such painful events."

El Salvador

Blandon Announces Changes in High Command

PA0107163888 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has announced 30 personnel changes, which are contained in the Armed Forces general order dated 30 June and include two High Command generals. Among the important changes within the Armed Forces High Command officially announced by Gen Blandon are the retirement of a general and one of the commanders of the Security Corps. Gen Blandon said that those changes will boost military actions because the new commanders will definitely implement a different strategy in the Salvadoran conflict.

[Begin Blandon recording] I will now officially announce the main changes:

In the Armed Forces High Command: General Rafael Flores Lima will leave his post as deputy defense minister and will become military attache in Spain; National Guard Director General Rafael Humberto Larios will replace Gen Flores Lima as deputy defense minister; and Treasury Police Director Colonel Leopoldo Hernandez has been appointed deputy public security minister, replacing General Rinaldo Golcher, who will become military attache in Italy.

In the General Staff: Colonel Oscar Armando Carranza will be in charge of personnel, or G-1; Colonel Guillermo Benavides Moreno will be head of intelligence, or G-2; and Colonel Augusto C. Maravilla will be in charge of civil affairs, or G-5.

In the country's main brigades: Colonel Campos Anaya of the 1st Infantry Brigade has been appointed defense attache in Washington; he will be replaced by Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda. Colonel [Jose Humberto] Gomez, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade, has been appointed National Guard director; he will be replaced by Colonel Ciro Lopez Rosas, currently commander of Military Detachment No 3 in La Union Department. Colonel Guzman Aguilar, commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade, has been appointed national police director; he will be replaced by Colonel Jose Emilio Chavez Caceres. [end recording]

Before announcing the military changes, Gen Blandon described U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the country as positive. Shultz met for a few moments

with top military officers, to whom he reaffirmed the Reagan administration's firm support for the Armed Forces in the war they have been conducting against the FMLN for the past 8 years.

Changes Listed

PA0207132188 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 1 Jul 88 p 6

[Text] According to the general order issued by the Ministry of Defense and Public Security in June 1988, the following are the most important routine changes in the Armed Forces:

General Rafael Flores Lima will leave his post as deputy defense minister and will become military defense attache in Spain.

General Rinaldo Golcher will leave his post as deputy security minister and will become military defense attache in Italy and Israel.

National Guard Director General Rafael Humberto Larios has been appointed deputy defense minister.

Treasury Police Director Colonel Leopoldo Antonio Hernandez has been appointed deputy public security minister.

Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda, presently head of G-2 on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has been transferred to commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade.

Colonel Ciro Lopez Roque, presently commander of Military Detachment No 3, has been transferred to commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso, Chalatenango.

Colonel Jose Emilio Chavez Caceres, presently commander of Military Detachment No 2 in Sensuntepeque, Cabanas, has been transferred to commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade in San Vicente.

Colonel Juan Carrillo Schlencker, presently commander of Military Detachment No 4 in San Francisco Gotera, Morazan, has been transferred to commander of the Cavalry Regiment.

Colonel Benjamin Eladio Canjura, presently commander of Military Detachment No 1 in Chalatenango, has been transferred to commander of the Engineers' Military Detachment in Zacatecoluca, La Paz.

Colonel Ivan Reynaldo Diaz, presently commander of the Atlacatl Batallion, has been transferred to commander of Military Detachment No 1 in Chalatenango.

Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes, presently head of G-5 on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has been transferred to commander of Military Detachment No 3 in La Union.

Colonel Roman Alfonso Barrera, presently deputy director of the military academy, has been transferred to commander of Military Detachment No 4 in San Francisco Gotera, Morazan.

Colonel Hector Heriberto Hernandez, presently director of the General Traffic Department, has been transferred to commander of Military Detachment No 5 in Cojutepeque, Cuscatlan.

Colonel Ricardo Alfonso Casanova Sandoval, presently deputy director of the National Police, has been transferred to commander of Military Detachment No 7 in Ahuachapan.

Lieutenant Colonel Julio Cesar Grijalva, presently executive officer of the 3d Infantry Brigade in San Miguel, has been transferred to commander of the Atlacatl Batallion.

Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Humberto Corado, presently executive officer of the 5th Infantry Brigade in San Vicente, has been transferred to commander of the "General Eusebio Bracamonte" Batallion.

Colonel Jose Humberto Gomez, presently commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Chalatenango, has been transferred to director of the National Guard.

Colonel Carlos Mauricio Guzman Aguilar, presently commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade in San Vicente, has been transferred to director of the National Police.

Colonel Alejandro Joel Sanchez Paredes, presently executive officer of Military Detachment No 6 in Sonsonate, has been transferred to deputy director of the National Police.

Colonel Oscar Armando Carranza, presently commander of the Engineers' Military Detachment in Zacatecoluca, has been transferred to head of G-1 on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides, presently commander of Military Detachment No 5 in Cojutepeque, has been transferred to head G-2 on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Colonel Augusto Candelario Maravilla Reyes, presently on the G-1 staff, has been transferred to head G-5 on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Colonel Roberto Rodriguez Murcia, present commander of the Cavalry Regiment, has been transferred to commander of the Armed Forces Logistic Support Command.

Colonel Jose Galileo Torres has been transferred to head the Defense and Public Security Ministry's Public Relations Department.

Colonel Ramon Antonio Morales Ruiz, present head of the Military Civic Action Department, has been transferred to head the Copecodeca [Permanent Commission of the Central American Defense Council] delegation in the foreign service.

Colonel Jesus Gabriel Contreras has been transferred to military attache in Peru.

Colonel Luis Alonso Amaya Garcia has been transferred to head the Military Civic Action Department.

Colonel Maximiliano Leiva Montalvo has been transferred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and placed on an availability status [en situacion de disponibilidad].

Colonel Rodolfo Antonio Revelo, present director of the National Police, has been transferred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and placed on an availability status.

Colonel Nicolas Carranza has been transferred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and placed on an availability status.

PDC Ratifies Chavez Mena as Candidate

PA0207223288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1755 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today at a mass rally the ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC) ratified Fidel Chavez Mena as its presidential candidate.

The rally was held in San Salvador this morning and was presided over by the majority of the PDC's Political Committee. Several thousand party members attended and expressed their support for Chavez Mena. The PDC has been in power since 1980 when it was part of a government coalition with the Army, but it is now virtually divided after Chavez Mena and Adolfo Rey Prendes hotly contested the party's candidacy for the March 1989 presidential elections.

At a party convention held at the end of April, local PDC leaders nominated Rey Prendes as the presidential candidate; however, this convention was ignored by the party leadership. After congresses were convened throughout the country, Chavez Mena was nominated as the official PDC candidate.

Chavez Mena has been accused by his opponents of having the backing of the U.S. Embassy. He has asked Rey Prendes to join his faction. At the same time, he announced a reorganization of the whole party in anticipation of next year's elections.

At a news conference, Rey Prendes said that if Chavez Mena remains the party's candidate, he will withdraw from the party "for a period of time, at least until after the 1989 elections."

Rey Prendes, who supposedly led the party machinery, said: "I do not feel obliged to work for a candidate who has not been elected legally according to the party's by-laws and regulations."

Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, former culture and communications minister, said "Chavez Mena's supporters are widening the rift by firing governors and government employees."

In addition to facing a virtual division, the PDC has been accused of corruption and criticized for not achieving peace in the country and reactivating the economy.

The PDC is also facing the absence of its principal leader, President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who is in Washington undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

The PDC crisis worsened on 20 March when the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) garnered a majority of Legislative Assembly deputies and municipal councils.

Guatemala

Government 'Regrets' Persian Gulf 'Accident'

PA0407172288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1555 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government headed by President Vinicio Cerezo "deeply regrets the accident" of the Iranian commercial plane downed by U.S. forces. In the tragedy, 290 people were killed.

President Cerezo's spokesman Julio Santos made this statement to ACAN-EFE today. Santos added that "according to what the Guatemalan Government knows about the tragedy, the U.S. State Department admitted that there was confusion."

Santos said: "In any case, an accident such as this is regrettable and distressing despite the fact that the U.S. Government asserts that its forces thought the plane was going to attack its ships."

Santos concluded that the attack on the Iranian passenger Airbus-300 by the U.S. ship "Vincennes" in the Persian Gulf must lead both Iraq and Iran "to think about ending the war that they have conducted for several years, because innocent people are also being killed, like in this case."

Mario Solorzano Martinez, secretary general of the Guatemalan Social Democratic Party, said "the incident is obviously condemnable."

Solorzano said: "That incident only shows that we are subject to the attitudes of the superpowers, and although this incident can be compared to case of the Korean commercial plane, the situation is different, because the United States is participating in a conflict in which it has no part."

Solorzano added that the case of the South Korean "KAL-007" jumbo jet downed by the Soviet Air Force on 1 September 1983 "is different, because that plane entered Soviet territory."

Solorzano stressed that with the downing of the Iranian passenger plane, the United States "is creating a much more difficult situation in the Persian Gulf, where its meddling is unnecessary."

Honduras

Azcona 'Dismayed' by U.S. Downing of Plane

PA0407164288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1620 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 4 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo lamented the death of 290 people in the downing of a commercial Iranian plane by a U.S. ship in the Persian Gulf on Sunday.

Press Secretary Lisandro Quesada told ACAN-EFE that the president "was dismayed by this tragic event that has brought mourning to a country and to many families."

Amid the sorrrow, it is important that the United States has admitted that the plane was downed by mistake and not as a result of a premeditated action, he added.

"It has been a very regrettable error because it involves the loss of human lives," Quesada stated. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Ortega Says Downing of Iranian Plane 'Genocide'

PA0407191488 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1825 GMT 4 Jul 88

[July 4th message from President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution, "to the U.S. people on the celebration of the anniversary of U.S. independence"; read by Marly Rojas]

[Text] On the occasion of the celebration of the anniversary of U.S. independence, I hereby wish to express on behalf of the Nicaraguan people and government our heartfelt greetings to the U.S. people.

During the past year, we Nicaraguans have been able to confirm in a special manner that the ideals of self-determination and sovereignty that lead the 13 colonies to proclaim and defend their liberty for more than 212 years have been flagrantly betrayed by the current U.S. Administration. However, the recognition and support by many U.S. sectors of the peace plan, the Contadora and Support Groups, the Esquipulas II agreement signed by the Central American presidents, and the Sapoa agreement, and the U.S. House and Senate rejection of the administration's attempts to increase its war against Nicaragua, the dramatic repudiation in the streets in many [U.S.] cities of the deployment of U.S. troops to Honduras, the noble effort by war veterans to send true humanitarian aid to our peoples, and the significant increase in the establishment of Nicaraguan and U.S. sister communities have strengthened the ties of friendship between Nicaraguans and U.S. citizens, based on the ideals that support the hope of all peoples to have liberty and independence.

On 3 July, on the eve of the independence anniversary, the U.S. Government perpetrated a true act of genocide by downing an Iranian civilian airliner with 290 passengers, including more than 60 children. This crime is added to the crimes perpetrated against the Nicaraguan people, proving a total contempt for international law and betraying the ideals of those who fought and died for U.S. independence.

Signed: Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Dissident RN Commanders Demand Bermudez' Ouster

PA0107195088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1825 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today a group of dissident "contra" commanders insisted that the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] political leadership dismiss RN military chief Colonel Enrique Bermudez.

A press communique originating in Miami and released here states that Commanders "Rigoberto, Tono, Tigrillo, Poffy, Licenciado, and Chacal will soon be in Nicaragua with their troops to confront Bermudez and to continue the struggle against the Sandinist regime."

Bermudez is accused of "corruption, autocracy, and not having ever engaged in combat with the Sandinist troops because he never forsakes the safety of his field camp in Honduras."

Another charge against him is that he "sends troops to Nicaragua from Honduras without enough field rations and supplies and only with light automatic weapons, which places them at an enormous disadvantage in the event they engage in combat."

The dissidents pointed out that they are trying to get the U.S. Government to stop supporting Bermudez and to reorganize the rebel military leadership for the benefit of the whole movement.

They also charged that the U.S. Central Information [as received] Agency (CIA) is the one supporting Bermudez "probably because his military negligence allows that entity to exercise total control over the struggle in Nicaragua."

RN Offices Closed; Rumors of Internal Struggle

PA0507014188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0040 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] San Jose, 4 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Nicaraguan "contras" closed some of their offices in San Jose because of a "reorganization" and fired approximately 75 employees, amid rumors of a fierce internal struggle in the rebels' military and political ranks.

Today an anti-Sandinist source told ACAN-EFE that on Sunday, five people arrived at the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) office in western San Jose, removing all the furniture and telephones.

Donald Castillo, a Nicaraguan labor leader living in exile, stressed that this happened because "a group of 75 companeros who had been fired" insisted on continuing to meet in the offices where the "contras" used to hold meetings and news conferences.

"We cannot keep quiet about these abuses, regardless of where they occur. These people are acting the way Somozists used to in the past and the way Sandinists are at present," Castillo noted, disclosing the names of those who arrived at the offices on Sunday to "dismantle them."

Castillo said that Azucena Ferrey, a member of the rebel leadership, is behind all this and accused her of "behaving like a dictator."

Other rebel sources, who asked not to be identified, maintained that the contras' internal feuds continue and that the RN is divided into three factions: one headed by Alfredo Cesar, who supports RN military leader Enrique Bermudez; another by Adolfo Calero; and a third by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

Calero is supported by Ferrey, and Chamorro is supported by a group of dissident officers who have been demanding Bermudez' dismissal for the past few months. They accuse Bermudez of mismanagement of contra funds, incompetence in directing the war, and despotism.

RN spokesman Enrique Arguello confirmed to ACAN-EFE that one of the contra offices in the capital's western sector was closed today. However, he added that "this is not due to" a lack of resources. He also denied that internal divisions remain within the anti-Sandinist rebels.

"Nothing has been dismantled. We decided to close some offices because there was an excess of personnel, and we agreed to discontinue some programs," including labor and educational programs. "Personnel were transferred to branch offices located on the other side of San Jose," Arguello stated.

Arguello added: "Priority treatment will be given to other projects," but he refused to give any details as to what those projects are.

Government Devalues Cordoba by 25 Percent

PA0207192588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1737 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Managua, 2 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today the progovernment daily EL NUEVO DIARIO reported that the Nicaraguan Government has devalued the cordoba by 25 percent on the official free market. This is the fifth devaluation in 5 months.

Effective today, the rate at which U.S. dollars will be sold at the official exchange house has been increased from 210 to 262.25 cordobas. The rate for purchasing U.S. dollars was raised from 200 to 250 cordobas.

The cordoba was not devalued in relation to the dollar on the official market, where it maintains its value of 80 cordobas per U.S. dollar.

On 25 June, the cordoba was devalued by more than 50 percent.

Panama

Government Communique Condemns Plane Downing

PA0507124488 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 5 Jul 88 p 1

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Government in Panama City on 4 July]

[Text] The Panamanian Government expresses its deep dismay over the attack by a U.S. warship on an Iranian passenger airplane while it was flying in an international air corridor near the Strait of Hormuz.

The 290 victims of this unprecedented act demand an expression of condemnation and rejection, not only by the international community through official channels, but by all humanity which observes, with justified fear, the extreme barbarity that can result from an unbridled desire for domination.

The type of weapon used in this act of war against a civilian target and the circumstances under which it took place make mistake or error unacceptable excuses to reduce the degree of guilt of those who committed this aggression.

The Panamanian people express to the Iranian people their heartfelt condolences and invariable solidarity with the common desire of one day establishing the real foundations of peaceful coexistence among all nations through mutual respect, equal treatment, and respect for international law and treaties.

Panama City, 4 July 1988

Solis on Shultz Tour, 'Invasion,' War Cabinet

PA0307011488 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2318 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Panama City, 2 Jul (DPA)—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, in statements to the West German press agency DPA in this capital, discussed topics related to the recent tour of Central America by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Panamanian democratization, and flaws of his "war cabinet."

According to the Panamanian president, Secretary of State George Shultz' tour of Central America "does not contribute to detente in the area, because it has a clear and definite purpose, which is to attempt to maintain U.S. policy in the area, which has not been exactly a peace-keeping policy."

Manuel Solis Palma confirmed the fears raised by Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera in Caracas, Venezuela, about a possible U.S. invasion of his country. In this regard, he said that "the position of the deputy foreign minister is based on a series of movements observed in the past few days that could lead to a military intervention in Panama or could also simply be part of the psychological warfare used by the United States as a last resort."

Solis Palma, referring to statements made by opposition member Roberto Brenes, said that "when the opposition National Civic Crusade questions my commitment to SELA, they are mistaken in demanding a return to democracy, because they are using the wrong phrase, since I never used such a term, but referred to the strengthening of the democratic process." [sentence as received]

"And one of the things that I referred to as strengthening the Panamanian democratic process," the president explained, "is the work and determination behind the presidential and parliamentary elections of 7 May 1989."

Solis Palma also said that he does not speak of a return to democracy, because as he has often reiterated, democracy has its political, social, and economic aspects. He said that "in the social aspect, Panama is one of the most advanced countries in terms of its democratic role, and in the political aspect, our structure permits the participation of all sectors."

According to the president, the opposition has confused the concept of a return to democracy with the social communications media closed by the Government and Justice Ministry. Solis Palma noted that "for the opposition there will be democracy in Panama only when this administration yields power to them. We do not share that concept, because it will be decided in the 1989 elections."

Referring to his short presidential term, Solis Palma was pessimistic regarding the role played by his "war cabinet," because it has not met the expectations demanded by the country's current crisis.

In this regard, he said: "I believe it is becoming very difficult to govern as a whole, establishing policies, strategies, and actions previously designed for the government team and later having the ministries and autonomous organizations acting as autonomous islands. It requires a lot of effort since our criteria are not always the same."

"Thus far we have not established clear socioeconomic policies or policies regarding the political future of the Republic. That is the aspect that I criticize, and I believe it is becoming very difficult to have it turn out as I want."

For the Panamanian president, overcoming this obstacle will be even harder than the crisis imposed by Washington on the government.

Deputy Foreign Minister Warns of U.S. Invasion

PA0207042188 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0230 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Caracas, 1 Jul (REUTER)—Today Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera said that the Reagan administration is taking steps leading to an invasion of Panama, which could be carried out during the long 4th of July holiday weekend commemorating U.S. Independence Day.

Cabrera based those statements, which he made at a news conference held shortly after arriving in Caracas, on the recent deployment of 3,050 U.S. soldiers to bases in Panama, including the 250 soldiers who arrived last week; on the increasing surveillance of Panamanian bases by U.S. planes; and on the arrival of 5,000 coffins and body bags at Panama City's Gorgas Military Hospital. In addition, Cabrera said that U.S. soldiers dressed in civilian clothes have increased their patrols of areas in Panama City where U.S. personnel live and that many of those personnel's relatives were moved to the military bases.

Cabrera said: "All these actions and other existing circumstances make us extremely worried about a possible, imminent, and not so unlikely U.S. military action." [passage omitted]

Cabrera said other reasons leading to the belief that Washington is planning an action are the absence of U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis from the country and the fact that the Gorgas Military Hospital is on alert.

Cabrera, who is in Caracas to participate in a SELA meeting, announced that he will report the possibility of a U.S. invasion of Panama to the regional and international public. Deputy Foreign Minister Cabrera said the campaign of economic sanctions launched by Washington against Panama has become "a frank, brutal process of intimidation with threats of the use of force."

Cabrera said the 15,000 soldiers of the Panama Defense Forces are on alert in view of the reported U.S. threat, but he refused to clarify what measures the Panamanian authorities have taken so far. [passage omitted]

Cabrera warned that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' lightning visit through Central America could be to "poll" Washington's allies in the region about the use of force against Panama. Yesterday Cabrera said that the visit by Shultz, who is accompanied by Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, is a "bad omen" for the region.

Cabrera added that the recent decision to change the venue of the meeting of the Panama Canal Commission binational group from Panama to Savannah, Georgia, is further evidence of the possibility of a U.S. military action.

CSS Ends Benefits for U.S. Government Employees

PA0107141088 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Jul 88 pp A-1, A-10

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Panama Canal Commission [PCC] and U.S. Armed Forces employees have protested the United States' failure to remit their contributions to the Social Security Fund [CSS]. The employees' unions have written a letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz expressing their disagreement and displeasure over this arbitrary measure, which endangers the health and well-being of a sizeable sector of the Panamanian community.

Last night an authoritative Panamanian Government spokesman told this newspaper that Panamanian employees of the PCC and the U.S. Armed Forces will cease receiving CSS benefits beginning today.

The source stressed that the government found itself forced to take this measure because it cannot continue to finance the large amount of overdue contributions that these U.S. agencies should have remitted to the CSS in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The employees of these agencies will also be unable to travel because they will not get a tax payment certificate [paz y salvo] due to the failure to remit their tax withholdings to Panama's national treasury.

President Reagan Found Guilty in TANA Trial

PA0207033088 [Editorial Report] Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 2150 GMT on 1 July begins to broadcast live the final session of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America (TANA) at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City. The purpose of the session is to announce the verdict of the TANA trial held from 28 June to 1 July of U.S. President Ronald Reagan on charges of violating the principles of "sovereignty, independence, self-determination, and noninterference" in his actions against the Republic of Panama. General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP), is in attendance to accept an award from TANA on behalf of former FDP chief General Omar Torrijos, who is being granted the award posthumously.

Following an address by TANA President Dr Guillermo Toriello, in which he denounces U.S. "aggression" against Panama and accuses the United States of violating the Carter-Torrijos treaties, the TANA trial verdict is read. The verdict states, in part: "By unanimous vote of its members, the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America finds the U.S. President guilty of violating the principles of sovereignty, independence, self-determination, and nonintervention through his attack on Panama." "By virtue of the violation of the U.N. Charter on basic principles of international organizations and of international legal order, and because the violations carried out by the United States have been analyzed and proven through the documents presented here, TANA declares [as heard] and confirms the damages sustained by the Panamanian people, which total approximately $5 billion."

The verdict statement continues: "The moral damages [to Panama] cannot be estimated in dollar terms, because they are incalculable. This tribunal, therefore, clearly determines and establishes that the Panamanian people have a right to be compensated, because of the international travesty perpetrated by the U.S. Government. This international tribunal decrees that this sentence is firm, definite, unappealable, and must be enforced immediately.

"This international tribunal will deliver this sentence in a solemn ceremony to Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency. A copy of the sentence will be sent to the U.N. and OAS secretaries general as well as to the member countries of the Contadora and Support Groups."

Following the reading of the verdict, Noriega accepts TANA's "Hero and Liberator of America" award on behalf of Torrijos.

Hearings Criticized

PA0207132788 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Legislator Jorge Ruben Rosas has said the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, which is holding an alleged trial against the U.S. Government at the Atlapa Convention Center, is making a mockery of our country.

[Begin Rosas recording] That farce being staged here in our country by well-known radical leftists has no legal basis. Our country should not allow these outrages because this worsens the situation. I want to avail myself of this opportunity to urge everyone to think this over and analyze where this is taking us. We are heading toward a senseless confrontation. I think this is worsening the situation in every aspect. We must act in a responsible manner and seek solutions to the problems, the national crisis, and the national disaster. [end recording]

Argentina

'Deep Consternation' Over Downing of Plane

PY0407003888 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2342 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Jul (DYN)—Today the Argentine Government expressed its "deep consternation" over the downing of a civilian Iranian airplane over the Persian Gulf and its "condolences" to the Iranian people and government, asking that the incident be "clarified."

In addition, in a communique released tonight at the government house, the Argentine Government said that "it is essential to achieve a quick and final solution to the conflict affecting that region."

Following is the text of the official Argentine communique:

"Upon learning of the tragic incident in the Persian Gulf, the Argentine Government hereby expresses its deep consternation and expects that the circumstances and the responsibility of those who caused it will be clarified.

"In the light of these events, the Argentine Government, in its capacity as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, reiterates its conviction that it is essential to achieve a quick and final solution to the conflict affecting that region. It calls on the permanent members of the UN Security Council as well as on the parties involved in the conlfict to do their utmost to reach this objective.

"The Argentine Government hereby expresses its condolences to the Iranian people and to the relatives of the victims."

'Great Unrest' in Army Over Candidate's Charges

PY0107151088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1222 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Jul (NA)—Charges by Radical Civic Union Party [UCR] precandidate Eduardo Angeloz that the Malvinas was unleashed "by a drunken general" has caused within the Army a feeling of "disgust and great unrest." Angeloz made his statement during a campaign meeting on Wednesday, 29 June.

Last night a high-ranking Army source told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "the pejorative comments about the higher echelons of this force have increased our concern that attacks against the Armed Forces may again become the main theme of the electoral campaign that has just started."

During the ceremony closing his electoral campaign, Angeloz referred to former Lieutenant General Leopoldo Galtieri's decision to reoccupy the Malvinas Islands through military force, terming the decision "the most absurd adventure in national history."

The military source said that the Army "has always sought the rapprochement and reconciliation of the Argentine people."

The Army source added that "Angeloz' statement was imprudent and offensive, if one takes into account that he is now governor of an important province and a precandidate for one of the traditional national political parties."

The source said that the Army "for many years has sought the reconciliation of the Argentine people and its own internal unity."

He added that statements such as the one made by Angeloz "only encourage other people to use the the Armed Forces as the main theme of their campaigns."

In referring to Galtieri in his speech, Angeloz said that "he is now in prison awaiting the court's decision for his crime against the fatherland."

Jaunarena Denies Tension

PY0407024388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1310 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Mendoza, 3 Jul (NA)—Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena has said that relations between the government and the Armed Forces "are going through a good period." He "denied" the existence of an alleged uneasiness within the Army leadership over remarks recently made by Cordoba Governor Eduardo Cesar Angeloz, who strongly criticized the people responsible for the Malvinas War.

Jaunarena made these remarks in the Pampa de Canota Andean area, 3,000 meters above sea level, during the final stage of the 1-week maneuvers being conducted there by Army and Air Force personnel. Nearly 5,000 men participated in these maneuvers.

Concerning the Malvinas issue, Jaunarena emphasized the differences "between political decisions, and the conduct of hostilities and the actual performance of men."

Jaunarena said: "My interpretation, beyond the ideas expressed, is that Dr Angeloz is separating the political decision of waging a war in the Malvinas Islands—with which he clearly disagrees—from the performance of the men who fought" in the South Atlantic war in 1982.

In this regard, the defense minister recalled the "heroic conduct of the Argentine soldiers, a conduct that makes not only us proud, but also must be a cause for gratitude to our Armed Forces." [passage omitted]

UCR Presidential Candidate on Victory

PY0407162988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1015 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Cordoba, 4 Jul (NA)—Cordoba Governor Eduardo Cesar Angeloz, who is the newly elected UCR presidential candidate, said that he does not intend "to influence decisions" of the national government although he admitted that he will "express his ideas and opinions to help in all he can, particularly in the economic field, which concerns everyone."

In statements made in this city after his overwhelming victory in the UCR internal elections, Angeloz—who will today meet with President Raul Alfonsin—denied that he will request economic reforms.

"We are going to exchange opinions and ideas, and I will probably gather some essential information that I need to exchange ideas with my own team afterward," Angeloz said.

Yesterday he said that "the Argentine people continue on the path toward the definite consolidation of democracy," adding that as of today "we will probably establish more frequent contacts with the national government than we have had."

The Cordoba governor said that he does not intend "to influence the decisions" of the government but will rather express "ideas and opinions to help in all we can, especially in the economic field, which concerns everyone."

In statements made in Cordoba last night, he also expressed his ability to summon his internal elections competitor Luis Leon, whom he described as "my friend forever."

After the overwhelming victory of the Eduardo Angeloz-Juan Manuel Casella slate was announced last night, the Cordoba governor said that in his talk today with Alfonsin "we will talk and analyze as much as possible all the events of the last 30 days to see what position we will assume."

When asked if he will request economic reforms he said: "I could not do so at all. We will exchange opinions and ideas, and I will probably gather essential information I need to exchange opinions with my own team afterward."

The UCR presidential candidate concluded by stressing the importance of this electoral phase for the political parties and for the consolidation of democracy. He said he hopes the next electoral campaign is carried out "with respect and full of ideas so that the voters may reflect on different proposals."

Hopeful Concedes Election

PY0407025588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0101 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Jul (TELAM)—This evening UCR presidential hopeful Luis Leon congratulated Juan Manuel Cassella—who is the likely vice presidential candidate in the UCR ticket headed by Eduardo Angeloz—for the electoral victory of the Angeloz-Casella ticket in the UCR primaries. Leon told Casella that he will cooperate with the UCR electoral campaign in 1989.

It was reported that Leon talked with Casella over the phone while Casella was at the UCR Buenos Aires province committee headquarters, and that the two leaders stressed that the internal election today was a participative, democratic event.

Justicialist Candidate Caffiero on Primaries

PY0407212688 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] We have asked Justicialist Party presidential hopeful Antonio Caffiero to give us his opinion on the UCR primaries held yesterday.

[Begin Caffiero recording] The outcome of the elections was predictable. My own electoral victory will not be a landslide like that of Angeloz. [passage indistinct] I congratulate him and I emphasize Leon's competitive attitude, because he has struggled [words indistinct]. I believe the primaries were democratic, and I am happy that everything went well and that we already have candidates [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Caffiero then expressed his certainty that the ticket of which he and Jose Manuel de la Sota are members will win the internal Justicialist elections. There is, he said, an essential reason for this: 90 percent of the party is on our side, which is enough for a comfortable victory. He added that there is no reason to believe that someone may promote division by disregarding the decision that Peronists make at the primaries.

During a program that he regularly presents on Radio Provincia de Buenos Aires on Mondays, Caffiero mentioned a possible amnesty, adding that the Argentine people must find a formula for total reconciliation. This however, cannot be done merely by forgetting the things that happened in the past. The episodes that we do not wish to relive must be recorded, he stressed. In this regard, he said that formulas must be devised so that the things that happened in the past do not interfere with the things that will happen in the future. This calls for a mature collective attitude. The people should not reject solutions that do not include either revenge or impunity. These extreme positions must be avoided, he said.

Asked about his position on a moratorium on the foreign debt, Caffiero said: I do not mean that a moratorium will solve all our problems; a moratorium is necessary but not sufficient. It must be combined with far-reaching reforms, so that this decision—unilateral or multilateral—can be effective.

This afternoon Caffiero will begin a 2-day visit to Santa Fe Province as part of his electoral campaign before the primaries on Saturday. He will arrive at the provincial capital at 1600 and will meet with the provincial governor, with former governor Vernet, and with Justicialist deputy (Carina).

At noon today, Caffiero presided over a ceremony during which the council for provincial development and joint participation was installed at the Buenos Aires Province government house in La Plata. It has been announced that this consultative organ, which will advise the executive branch, will promote multisectorial participation and cooperation in planning socioeconomic tasks.

Remains of Soldiers Killed on Falklands Sought

PY0407034688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2103 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Mar del Plata, 3 Jul (TELAM)—Today Jose Guirrieri, the father of a combatant killed in the Malvinas war, spoke of the need to conduct negotiations with the British authorities to repatriate the remains of our children who fell defending our sovereignty.

Guirrieri made this petition to UCR deputy Jose Carmona who, through LU6 Radio Atlantica of Mar del Plata, publicly committed himself to cooperate directly to get results from this petition.

Carmona responded that he would made contacts in this regard and would convey the concern of the relatives of the Malvinas war veterans to the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, headed by Federico Storani, and to the Foreign Ministry authorities.

Guirrieri said that 6 years after the Malvinas war we now want to pay our homage to the fallen and have our children near, in order to lay a flower on a grave and say a prayer as an expression of love and gratitude for the honest services rendered to the fatherland.

Bolivia

Minister, COB Leader View Results of Strike

PY0107134788 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Information Minister Herman Antelo has said that the government will enforce the law and will not permit disorder under any circumstances, adding that the government has the necessary tools to guarantee free transit and to prevent any action that might cause disorder. [passage omitted]

Antelo said that the second day of the strike called by the COB will be similar to the first one, held yesterday, when only 10 percent of the [word indistinct] COB unions joined it. [passage omitted]

According to COB permanent secretary Oscar Iturri, the stoppage was being observed as expected by COB leaders. He said that 100 percent of the production sector joined the strike, adding that according to reports received from rural areas, major sectors observed the strike in the countryside as well. [passage omitted]

Officials: Groups Provoked Peasants in Tunari

PY0107141488 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday government officials and Bolivian police officers said yesterday that the incidents involving coca growers in Cochabamba were provoked by political groups and drug traffickers. [passage omitted]

[Begin speaker recording] [Passage omitted] The government has learned that one of the objectives of the seizure of the police barracks was to paralyze the police for some time, in order to allow (?drug trafficking leaders) to enter Chapare freely and allow the removal of drugs from the area. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Cochabamba police chief Colonel (Carlos Campero) said that no foreigners were involved in the Villa Tunari incidents, adding that the two DEA agents who were at UMOPAR barracks did not participate in the incident because they immediately left for Chimore. [passage omitted]

Deputies Investigate

PY0407130888 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies Committee investigating the recent clashes between coca farmers and UMOPAR forces has found out that more people died in the clashes than had been originally reported.

The deputies of the aforementioned committee traveled to Cochabamba last week and verified at the site the facts connected with the deaths that occurred there last week.

Initial reports maintain that there are documents that prove that Drug Enforcement Agency [preceding three words in English], DEA, agents participated in the clashes against the coca farmers.

Today the deputies start gathering all the information pertaining to the clashes to report it to a special congressional session which, in the end, will have to make a more definite decision regarding the case.

The police chiefs believe that the region settlers and coca farmers are displeased with the behavior of the U.S. agents whom they accuse of committing arbitrary actions.

It was also verified that the DEA agents receive preferential treatment in regard with the UMOPAR members who are not well equipped for the fight against drug trafficking.

The deputies who are investigating the case will soon release their first reports on the Villa Tunari incident and will propose measures to pacify the region.

Official, Deputies on DEA Agent Departure

PY0307231688 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1614 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] La Paz, 3 Jul (AFP)—Today in Cochabamba, UMOPAR Police Commander Colonel Reynaldo Mariaca said that the departure of the special Drug Enforcement Agency [preceding three words in English] (DEA) forces from the Chapare tropical region in central Bolivia, where coca leaves are produced, would help relax the situation and bring calm to the region.

Col Mariaca said that the Chapare peasants are uneasy over the presence of the U.S. experts. This provokes friction that results in events that both the people and the institution regret, he said.

For their part, Deputies Jose Luis Gutierrez and Victor Hugo Cardenas, members of a committee investigating the deaths of 10 peasants in clashes with the police, have said that the presence of the U.S. DEA agents is completely harmful and that they should leave the Chapare region.

The DEA agents have been training the Bolivian anti-narcotics police since 1984 in the fight against narcotics traffic in the Chapare region, which produces the largest volume of coca leaves, the raw material for processing cocaine.

Brazil

Iranian Plane Downing 'Regrettable Incident'

PY0407230088 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2215 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] This afternoon the Brazilian Foreign Ministry issued a communique on the downing of an Iranian aircraft.

(Marco Antonio Deniz Brandao), spokesman of Itamaraty Palace, read the communique:

[Begin (Brandao) recording] The Brazilian government learned with deep sorrow of the downing of an Iranian civil aircraft, which resulted in the loss of many innocent lives.

As has been clearly stated in the past, international civil aviation—a factor of peace and rapprochement—must not be threatened by this type of event.

This tragic incident shows once again the need for maximum restraint by all parties in the Persian Gulf, as called for by UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987.

The Brazilian government voices it deep condolences to the relatives of the victims of this regrettable incident. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Comments on Trade With PRC

PY0407000288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1314 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Beijing, 3 Jul (EFE)—To reactivate bilateral trade, Brazil has assigned priority to technical cooperation with the PRC, a matter that will be discussed during the visit of Brazilian President Jose Sarney to that Asian country.

In remarks to EFE, Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Abreu Sodre has not ruled out the possibility of studying the joint production of "defensive weapons" with the PRC, as both countries have made great developments in this field.

In Sodre's opinion, the eight governmental treaties that Brazil will sign with the PRC during President Sarney's official visit to Beijing will give great impetus to bilateral trade.

According to Sodre, an agreement on the construction and launching of two satellites to explore natural resources ranks first in this bilateral effort.

Brazilian Aeronautics Minister [title as received] Luiz Henrique da Silveira has said that Brazil and the PRC can cooperate in many fields, as in the manufacturing of cargo of airplanes. However, he dismissed for the time being the existence of joint military ventures.

The Brazilian Aeronautics Company (EMBRAER), which participated in an aviation fair in Beijing a few months ago, has already made contacts in the PRC to study the production of a Sino-Brazilian model.

According to Brazilian diplomatic sources, the PRC hopes to be able to sell Brazil some of its aeronautics products such as the "Y-7" airplane.

Minister Abreu Sodre's opinion is that closer technological cooperation can stimulate bilateral trade, which dropped from $1.2 billion in 1985 to some $620 million in 1987.

The Brazilian foreign minister emphasized that the project involving the construction of the two satellites demonstrates that the PRC and Brazil can unite for a great technological undertaking.

Another way to reactivate bilateral trade is to invite Brazilian private companies to establish joint ventures with PRC corporations, the foreign minister concluded.

Central Bank Makes $1 Billion Debt Payment

PY0107024788 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Jun 88

[Text] Today the Central Bank paid $1 billion on foreign debt interest. The Central Bank sent a telex to Citibank authorizing it to withdraw $1 billion from Brazilian reserves deposited in that bank.

The money will be used to pay for the interest Brazil owes the private creditor banks for the interest payments that became due in April and May 1988.

After today's payment, banks will grant Brazil a $300-million loan to reestablish short-term credit lines.

The payment of the interest which became due in June will depend on an agreement to be reached between Brazil and creditor banks regarding a bridge loan.

Ministry Cuts Money for Air-to-Air Missile

PY0207170888 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Jul 88 p A-4

[By Roberto Lopes]

[Text] Brazilian Aeronautics Minister General Octavio Julio Moreira Lima has informed the Administrative Council of Orbita Aerospace Systems—a company established in January 1987 to manufacture missiles and rockets—that, in view of the budget cuts levied by the government on all ministries, the Aeronautics Ministry will no longer be able to finance the development of the Piranha air-to-air missile—renamed the MOL (after the minister's name).

The presidents of INFRAERO [Brazilian Air Support Enterprise], Brigadier Lauro Ney Menezes, and of EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company], Ozilia Silva—who are both members of the Orbita Administrative Council—informed their colleagues about the decision during a meeting on 30 May in the auditorium that ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc] has in the residential area called Alphaville, in the Barueri district of greater Sao Paulo. ENGESA and EMBRAER (under the jurisdiction of the Aeronautics Ministry) supply 80 percent of the capital and most of the technicians who currently comprise Orbita's personnel. The Brazilian Air Force (FAB) was studying the possibility of earmarking $25 million for Orbita, for the final research and construction of the Piranha missile prototype.

During the council's meeting, Menezes and Ozilio heard their colleagues urge that the Aeronautics Ministry at least disburse the minimum necessary funds so Orbita could keep the team hired to construct the missile. The two company presidents promised to do their best. Development of the Piranha missile started in the late seventies and was the subject of research carried out for 6 years by the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) in Sao Jose dos Campos (Sao Paulo). Development of the project was handed over to ENGESA in 1986, and last year to the new missile and rocket factory.

ENGESA President Jose Luis Withaker Ribeiro, who was also at the meeting, regretted that Minister Moreira Lima had cut the funds for the Piranha project. FOLHA found out that Brigadier Murilo Santos, chief of the Aeronautics Ministry cabinet, has already promised to arrange a meeting for Withaker with Minister Moreira Lima. Last January the Orbita authorities attended a meeting at the Aeronautics High Command during which they heard about the possibilities of placing the Piranha on the international market.

The Orbita authorities disclosed that they were planning to develop a missile capable of competing with the French-made Magic and the U.S.-made Sidewinder. They said there was no need for the Piranha to be better than the Israeli-made Phyton, because the market they had in mind for the Piranha was the Arab countries' air forces—which is a market almost closed to Israeli-made materiel.

Chile

Bishop Says Fraud 'Practically Impossible'

PY0207040088 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile in Spanish 0030 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] The Episcopal Conference President wished the Voting Service director success in the upcoming plebiscite and expressed the church's support in his task.

Msgr Carlos Gonzales observed the long list of registered voters and said that this is a valuable step in guaranteeing the seriousness of the plebiscite.

The prelate arrived at the Voting Service offices to get acquainted with the voting process, which was explained to him step by step by Voting Service Director Juan Ignacio Garcia.

Msgr Gonzalez was favorably impressed by the computer equipment and the paper with which the ballots will be made. He said that these provisions will guarantee the secret nature of the vote.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] (?Honestly), it seems that the whole process is well organized. That is why the church wanted to give its support to Juan Ignacio (?for the good job he's done).

[Reporter] Do the things you observed today deny the possibility of fraud made by the opposition lately?

[Gonzalez] I would say that given the mechanism being prepared for the day of the plebiscite, a fraud will seem—at least in theory—to be practically impossible. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the Voting Service director said that Msgr Gonzalez' visit was very positive because it demonstrated that no fraud will be committed in the plebiscite.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] The fact that a church authority expressed his support for the system is satisfying for the Voting Service and for myself. It is a positive message to all Chileans, meaning that the plebiscite will be free and secret as desired by all.

[Reporter] What can you say about Msgr Gonzalez having ruled out the possibility of a fraud when he saw the ballots?

[Garcia] I think that this represnts great progress to cast out the great distrust there was in the system. We tried to explain the voting process step by step until we demonstrated that the technical aspect of the plebiscite is practically fraud-proof. [end recording]

Yes Vote Campaigners 'Attacked' at Law School

PY0107025388 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile in Spanish 0030 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] National Renewal [NR] Youth President Alejandro Alvarez appealed to the democratic sectors and urged them to define themselves in the face of violence.

Alvarez, Renato Gazmuri, and other representatives who favor the yes vote in the plebiscite were attacked as they tried to launch a yes vote campaign at the University of Chile Law School.

The shouts and insults of students did not allow Alvarez and his group to hold a rally in support of the yes vote. The angry students behaved violently even on the street.

Alejandro Alvarez said that the attitude of these violent sectors should make the undecided voters reflect on the importance of voting yes in the plebiscite. He said that these violent groups headed by the left and who call themselves democratic have once again shown their real face.

[Begin Alvarez recording] This kind of behavior will not make us retreat. On the contrary, we will continue proclaiming yes in all universities. We will continue working for a strong, solid, modern, and libertarian party like the RN.

I think this violence should make the undecided, those who do not know whether to vote yes or no, reflect. Once again it is clear that the no vote campaign is not led by moderate sectors, but by extremists, the left, the same ones who say they will accept the result of the plebiscite only if the no vote wins.

I want to exhort the opposition democratic parties to finally express a clear and defined position about this violence. Today they have not let us speak. They have violated one of the most important principles of democracy. Where is their pluralism, the discussion of ideas, the right of expression? [end recording]

Minister Comments on Marxist 'Threat'

PY0207032888 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile in Spanish 0030 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Today Minister Secretary General of Government Orlando Poblete said that the Marxists' threat of forcing the military officers currently in public posts to retirement is nothing but a confirmation of their desire to turn the Armed Forces into an instrument of the Marxist revolution.

Poblete spoke today at the conclusion of a Teachers for the Yes to Democracy seminar, in which teachers from Chacabuco Province participated.

Poblete referred to the importance of the plebiscite, saying that the yes vote represents all those who want democracy with stability and order and who wish to strengthen all kinds of freedoms.

He said voters must be fully aware of the national reality. He thanked the teachers for their support and for their effort in favor of democracy and freedom.

In his speech, Poblete also referred to recent statements by a Marxist leader who had said that military officers who are currently campaigning—as he worded it—will pass into retirement if the no vote wins.

Poblete said that those military officers who hold political posts have the right and the duty to give opinions and to set guidelines on political issues because that is their mission. It must not be forgotten that the Armed Forces and forces of order are complying with a basic task which is above sectorial, partisan, or ideological interests, Poblete said.

[Begin Poblete recording] When the Marxists say they will order the retirement of those military officers currently holding public posts and leading the country to full democracy, they are simply confirming their will to turn the Armed Forces into instruments of a Marxist revolution.

We are not surprised at the fact that a Marxist would threaten the Armed Forces. What the Marxist leader who recently spoke really meant—as other Communist and Socialist spokesmen have stated in the past—is that he is confirming his will to completely modify the Armed Forces' role and structure in order to turn them into an instrument that will transform our free society into a totalitarian one. [end recording]

Socialist International To Meet in Santiago

PY0207171888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0358 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Santiago, 2 Jul (TELAM-EFE)—Delegates from 15 parties that belong to the Socialist International [SI] will meet for 2 days in Santiago to discuss Chile's political situation and efforts aimed at the recovery of democracy in Chile.

This meeting, the first in Chile of the Socialist International Committee for Solidarity with Chile, will open on 2 July at a downtown Santiago hotel. It will be presided over by Reiulf Steen, chairman of the Norwegian parliament.

Enrique Silva Cimma, vice president of the Socialist International and leader of the Chilean Radical Party [PR]; the Spaniard Matilde Fernandez, a member of the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and vice

president of the Women's Socialist International; and Luis Ayala, secretary general of the Socialist International, will also be seated at the rostrum.

Results Viewed

PY0407150788 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 4 Jul 88

[By Raul Pena]

[Text] The Communists are like termites, and they have practically eaten up the opposition. We do not really hate Marxist-Leninists, although we should because of what they did in Chile in the past. The facts are against the Communists. Let me give an example.

The meeting of the Socialist International in Santiago did not provide anything new except the sincerity expressed by Enrique Silva Cimma who said that there is still a long way to go to ensure the no vote victory in the plebiscite.

Silva Cimma, president of the opposition PR, had to close the 2-day SI meeting. Socialist congressmen of Europe and the Americas attended the meeting. Cimma concluded the event because the man in charge of it, Norwegian Reiulf Steen, who is president of the Chilean Committee, was ill.

It was obvious that the Norwegian parliament chairman' attention to social activities went too far because our locally brewed alcoholic beverages made him ill. The effects of the alcohol were clearly identifiable during the news conference.

The conclusions of the SI meeting were based on old concepts which were obviously inclined toward the opposition. We cannot talk about the meeting's objectivity even if we mention the welcome given to businessmen Domingo Duran and Daniel Platovsky, who expressed concern over an alleged world boycott against Chile.

Silva Cimma said that they never thought of doing such a thing and that Duran and Platovsky were given assurances in this regard. However, the distance between a promise and fulfilling that promise is great. We have had experience in the past with guarantees. In this regard, the Christian Democratic Party should be asked what happened to them with Allende.

Despite the fact that there was talk about dialogue, tolerance, coexistence, and peace during the meeting, there was also talk about a fraud. This is a theory on which the opposition hangs. This is why they announced that a special mission of observers, or inspectors, will be sent for the preliminary stages and during the plebiscite.

(Freibut Dugue), FRG deputy, said that he is going to organize a delegation of FRG congressmen for the following weeks. (Dugue), and Israeli Deputy (Avraham Haj Hanry) said that they do not believe that the PCCh and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], which are now supporting the no vote, are going to radicalize the opposition movement. Apparently these deputies were not told of all the things happening in Chile. In addition, a spokesman who appears as an important SI member is reportedly a PCCh member attempting to solicit $500,000 for the future radicilization of operations against the government.

Labor Group Announces New Executive Board

PY0107204888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The Union Confederation Solidarity [Confederacion Nacional de Trabajadores Solidaridad] organization has disclosed its newly-elected executive board, chaired by Ramon Gregorio Pacheco, a coal workers trade union leader. [passage omitted]

The other executive board members are: Vice Presidents Alberto Prado Contreras and Juan Flores Delgado; Secretary General Walter Toro Castro; Treasurer Marina Munoz Fuentes; and directors Nicolas Diaz Orellana, Mario Santander Sepulveda Neira Silva, Gaston Aravena Maldonado, and Victor Escobar Zuniga.

Colombia

President Speaks on Economy, Kidnapping

PA0407132188 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0058 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Speech by President Virgilio Barco Vargas to business leaders in of Valle del Cauca Department in Cali on 1 July—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...It is indispensable that Colombians have a clear idea of the state's ability to control the complex public order situation and of the true, real status of our economy. It is also indispensable for everyone to assume his corresponding responsibility and act with patriotism and generosity. These are topics that I am going to address today before this select group of leaders, with the hope that my words will be echoed and well received throughout Colombia, and with the hope that the confidence that you have shown in our country's present and future will spread to all your compatriots here in El Valle and in the rest of the country.

First of all, I wish to refer to the status of the Armed Forces and how they have been strengthened in every way during my administration. Do not be surprised to see that the reiterated statements made by the top military ranks in this regard are repeatedly distorted, misrepresented, or not publicized. The content of these statements show confidence, but the way they are presented in the media generates shock and alarm. As the defense minister said in a letter to me some days ago, Colombia's soldiers will return to their compatriots the

tranquillity that we all desire, if the entire nation extends to them sincere and effective solidarity, because where national defense is concerned, the commitment is, and must necessarily be, total.

Let us examine some figures that show how this administration has strengthened the public forces. These figures come from the aforementioned letter from the defense minister. While 4 years ago, 22 billion [currency not given] were needed for the Armed Forces general expenses and only 6.602 million were allocated in the budget—that is less than one-third of the amount requested today—in 1988, allocations have been made that fully, completely meet the Armed Forces' requirements.

While 29 billion were requested, 30.4 billion were allocated; that is 1.2 billion more than were requested. [figures as heard] What a difference! How can it be said that there is neglect? How can it be said that the government is not attributing to public order the priority that we all know it should have? The fact is that the deficiencies accumulated during a period in which requirements totalling over 20 billion were neglected, cannot be corrected in the blink of an eye. This is more than three times the total amount appropriated for the Armed Forces in 1984.

For security reasons, that worrisome situation should have been debated in the past. It is incongruous that now, the figures of the past are being used to discuss the very different realities of the present, for the purpose of making the citizens feel unprotected.

Today, the public security forces comprise over 200,000 men. There were only 120,000 men 10 years ago. The troop strength has increased 20 percent during my administration. Therefore—and this is acknowledged by people of good will—there is more money, more equipment, and more men and women in the services. Undoubtedly, there is also more of a mystique and more commitment, thanks to the unqualified support that they have received from the government at all times.

However, there are people who want to play the terrorists' game, and they proclaim to the world that the country is unprotected, that the Armed Forces do not have the required resources, and that the servicemen's morale is at its nadir. It is an absurd diagnosis, a diagnosis that was true in times that we are overcoming with great effort. It is a diagnosis that perhaps reflects the secret desires of the people who are determined to sow terror and confusion, but one that in no way represents the facts.

The fact is that, behind all these false reports, there is also an interest in diminishing and weakening the Armed Forces' combat ability, and in undermining the strength of institutions. Many Colombians, in good faith, repeat the lies and unwittingly become—against their true desires—accomplices of the terrorists. For this reason, it is for the good of Colombia and for the benefit of so many Colombians, who desire the best for our fatherland, that I speak with such clarity, at the risk of awakening the ire of those who, maliciously or stupidly, are determined to help create a climate of terror.

The kidnapping of Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, condemned by everyone inside and outside the country, is a terrorist action, whose purpose is none other than to generate panic and mistrust among all the citizens and to apply unacceptable blackmail to the institutions.

Those who sow panic and become efficient spreaders of the terror that terrorists want to spread serve terrorists well, but they serve the fatherland badly.

The Gomez family has been an example of serenity, courage, and true understanding of the situation. I present them as a model of behavior that must be imitated. Their cooperation in the handling of such a delicate matter is also commendable. This family knows that the government is doing everything possible to ensure that Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado returns safe and sound.

It is utterly unacceptable that violence and terror are used as methods of struggle in a pluralist democracy where opposition groups fairly compete with the government party within a climate of freedom.

Humankind has rejected terrorism and terrorist acts in every circumstance, even in international armed conflicts. Terrorism is an expression of total war where the end justifies the means. Terrorism is basically immoral.

Colombia has adopted every measure that Europe has used in its struggle against narco-terrorism and turned over to other nations. Most of these measures are contained in the Statute for the Defense of Democracy adopted by this government. What measure recommended by experts in this matter has not been adopted by this government?

Undoubtedly, the public [security] forces lack two basic instruments in the struggle against subversion. These two instruments were included in the Statute for the Defense of Democracy, but they were declared unconstitutional. I am referring to the possibility of conducting searches without warrants and the possibility of holding a suspect for up to 10 days for questioning. These are two tools that, according to the Canadian and European experiences, are a key to success. They are a key part of what has been referred to as emergency legislation.

As part of the systematic campaign to destabilize the country, there are also people and groups involved in spreading the idea that the economy is in bad shape. In an effort to counter any response to this assertion, they say that the president is too optimistic. This is one of the things that shows a lack of solidarity and, in some way, a self-destructive trend in certain groups of our society.

Without ignoring the difficulties—which in many cases can be explained because they involved factors that are foreign to the government—the fact is that the results have been completely satisfactory, and they will continue to be satisfactory, as most irrational critics of our administration have finally admitted.

It is worth recalling—because sometimes we forget—why we think the economy remains dynamic, despite adverse social conditions created by the enemies of peace and democracy.

We are improving the living standards of poor sectors, but at the same time we continue working to make the economy more dynamic by promoting new production and marketing patterns.

My experience as an industrialist—back when I began my professional life—taught me about the instruments that make businessmen's jobs easier and more dynamic. Labor peace, clear and stable regulations concerning prices, imports, taxes, and access to credit and the necessary level of foreign exchange are indispensable for industrialists to carry out their productive activities for the benefit of society.

My administration has succeeded in turning these instruments into an incentive in productive activities.

Never in the last 2 years has the country had such stable and appropriate conditions to stimulate production and employment. The positive results, recognized at home and abroad, are obvious. Some of the realities that we can emphasize as the heritage of our economic policy and our production [word indistinct] are the following: First, economic growth has resumed and it remains vigorous, increasing the people's living standard. In 1986, the gross national product rose 5.1 percent. In 1987, it rose 5.4 percent, and in 1988 growth will be more than 5 percent.

Second, the country has a solid foreign position, which is proven by international reserves, approximately $4 billion, which is the largest in the last 6 years.

This has permitted us to eliminate the restrictions on imports, so domestic industries have no difficulties in obtaining foreign exchange to purchase raw materials and goods required for their accelerated growth.

Third, our exports are continuously more diversified and dynamic. In addition to coffee, we export increasing amounts of oil, in spite of the senseless attacks that harm our production. We have exported more coal and nickel, in addition to various other industrial and agricultural goods that are so-called minor exports. These exports, which increased 20 percent in 1987, remain strong, and in 1988 they have increased at a rate of 15 percent.

Fourth, we can point out that these positive aspects of our economy have taken place in a balanced fiscal and monetary framework, which has permitted the government to reorganize the government's expenses to deal with the people's most important needs by using the plan against absolute poverty, the principal objective of this government.

In this fashion, the increasing growth of the economy is producing a society that is more just and with a better distribution of wealth. Naturally, these things are rarely told. It is not often that the validity of the reorganizations is recognized. It is more likely that obstructions and uncertainty are created, without taking into consideration the damage that this pessimism does to the nation as a whole.

This is an example that illustrates this unwarranted pessimism: Almost to the day of the first disbursement of the $680 million from the foreign loan that we received last year, the media with gleeful joy announced that the concord—the name that had been given to this financial operation—has failed. This put in doubt the vigor of the economy's exchange rate [solidez cambiaria]. In fact, how many would have wanted this to be true?

This (?direction) that we have taken with our economic policy is due to the fact that we want to have a strong private sector that will take risks, that is competitive, without private privileges, that will invest, and, naturally, that will generate employment. This way the whole country wins. This is the thrust of the measures and policies that we have adopted. In our social economy, which seeks not only growth but equitable growth, we have made great efforts to direct public expenses toward dealing with the greatest social needs, without detrimental budget and monetary excesses, but rather by controlling it wherever possible to create financial openings where every peso is put to its best use.

That is why we have furthered the plan to rehabilitate waterworks and roads. That is why there is no bottleneck in financing agrarian reform, as was clearly pointed out by the finance minister.

All this is no easy task. In addition to the inflexibility of the questionable projects that we inherited from the past, which now restrict our choice of action, the constitutional and legal regulations for public financing sometimes create red tape that decreases the effectiveness and range of our actions.

Therefore, this will be one of principal subjects of constitutional reform, and this is why we have submitted new budget regulations to congress. Nevertheless, in spite of the difficulties, we will continue working with the same urgency and desire for the solutions that the country demands.

Since it is of interest to Valle Department and the nation, I take this opportunity to announce that after the meeting held this week between the finance minister, the

national planning director, the mayor of Cali, the manager of (?UNCALI), and officials of the (?CBC). [sentence as heard] It is this: The national government shares with the municipality of Cali the importance attached to the Agua Blanca program and the shantytowns of Cali because it is aimed at helping the low-income population, and therefore is within the framework of national policies to eliminate absolute poverty. Therefore, the goal is to begin those programs as soon as possible.

In a climate of frank cooperation, it was agreed to study, with the cooperation of all parties involved, alternative solutions to guarantee the necessary resources for this program.

In this regard it was decided that next week a plan will be drafted to request credit from the IDB. To do this, the total cost of the plans for the two phases of the Agua Blanca project, and the Cali investment plan, were reviewed to establish the minimum financial aid necessary to execute this plan. [applause]

Depending on the results, the (?CBC)'s financial situation will be analyzed and its requirements reviewed and updated to allow for a plan that will be commensurate with the credit available to the electricity sector.

I hope the (?clouds) darkening the economic scene will soon disappear. Inflation has not been fostered by economic excesses; it has been caused essentially by problems with the availability of food, which have resulted primarily from unfavorable weather conditions and the worst drought we have had in the past 33 years. In the second half of the year, this situation should noticeably improve.

Interest rates should also decrease within a short time. To the extent that inflation decreases, and with sufficient liquidity at banks now that the unrest caused by psychological terrorism has been quelled, a trend toward lower interest rates can be expected.

In short, in the field of economic management, Colombians can expect the same careful management as in the past. We should all work with confidence because a growing economy that has investments and generates jobs, and whose public spending reaches the poorest sectors, is one of the most useful tools to confront the great social problems we are currently experiencing.

The national government and the government party have taken a special interest in the Social Conservative Party's desire to positively contribute to the solution of the difficult public order situation. I am requesting, I am demanding, benevolence for Colombia, for its institutions, its present, and its promising future. I am not requesting nor will I request benevolence for myself or for the government. I am exceedingly pleased to have had the opportunity to make these statements of national interest in Cali, in front of you, the businessmen of a region that is the heart of the unjustified skepticism of a few, you who have demonstrated your confidence and faith in the country's future, which can only be guaranteed if we all defend Colombia's democratic institutions. Thank you. [applause]

Minister 'May Be' Negotiating With M-19

PA0307225688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2100 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 3 Jul (EFE)—Former Colombian Minister Felio Andrade told EFE today that Government Minister Cesar Gaviria "may be" meeting in some foreign country with M-19 guerrillas to negotiate the release of former Liberation Party candidate Alvaro Gomez. [passage omitted]

Andrade told Colombian newspaper EL TIEMPO that "talks are underway in Panama" but, he indicated, he could not assert that Government Minister Gaviria had traveled over the weekend to Panama to participate in those talks, or to Costa Rica, or any other country.

"I would imagine that his trip has to do with the talks," the former justice minister said, adding that "whatever the government and M-19 discuss regarding Alvaro Gomez should be made public." [passage omitted]

M-19 Leader Pizarro on Gomez Kidnapping

PA0207201488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0115 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 1 Jul (EFE)—Carlos Pizarro, commander in chief of the M-19, told EFE today that the guerrilla group has pledged its honor to keep alive former Colombian presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, whom the guerrillas have held hostage since 29 May. [passage omitted]

Pizarro received the EFE news agency yesterday, in a world exclusive, at an apparently provisional camp in the heart of the Colombian mountains, where the EFE envoy, accompanied by a Spanish Television crew, arrived under strict security. [passage omitted]

Pizarro said "Alvaro Gomez' detention is symbolic to tell the Colombian people that we have to open paths of agreement."

When he was told that these agreements were based on the guerrillas laying down their arms, the rebel chief said "We are prepared to demobilize as guerrillas, but not to demobilize the resistance of the people under a leadership class that has been selfish in the management of national politics."

After labeling that class as "the defender of selfish privileges," Pizarro said he was not advocating only a military solution to the conflict, but a political solution "that implies sacrifices for everyone." [passage omitted]

"This is a historic day," he said when he finished reading a communique in a radio broadcast relayed by the Uribe Camp of the FARC, the only Colombian guerrilla movement that is observing a truce.

Pizarro did not know that the government had rejected his proposal, feeling secure in his camp in the impregnable mountains, as he assured EFE that if his conditions were not accepted "a path of war was decreed for the whole nation, and it would be painful for us and for Gomez Hurtado." [passage omitted]

He had just told the Colombian Government by radio, over the same transmitter on which he communicates and gives orders to his armed forces, that for the release of Gomez Hurtado it was necessary to declare a 60-day truce and that a summit must be held with the participation of representatives of all Colombian sectors to study the country's situation.

Pizarro defined this situation emphatically: "In Colombia we are all killing each other. The level of our violence is alarming to the world."

Reconciling those words of peace with the kidnapping of Alvaro Gomze Hurtado was the dialectic leitmotiv of the whole interview.

"When Alvaro Gomez learned it was the M-19 that had kidnapped him, he was greatly relieved," Pizarro said. He added he felt that Gomez Hurtado, with whom he has exchanged three letters, "feels that he is active in the country's politics."

Pizarro refused to reveal the contents of the letters, alleging the correspondence "is private" but that he is willing to have them delivered to his wife.

After stating that he considered the contents of the letters necessary for Colombia's future, Pizarro read to EFE one paragraph of one of the letters; the last paragraph of the second letter.

"It says," the guerrilla chief said slowly: "Because, at stake is not only our fate, which is not under our control, but peace, which perhaps now as never before has a chance."

Names of Negotiating Team

PA0107191788 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Several EFE correspondents, Spanish radio and television reporters, and former Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez have met with M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro Leon Gomez in the Colombian mountains.

The guerrilla leader stated that Dr Alvaro Gomez is in good physical and mental health, that former Attorney General Jimenez has agreed to serve as mediator between the subversive group and the government, and that a five-member commission has been appointed to negotiate an agreement between the guerrilla organization and the government. These five people are: former Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez, Senator Ernesto Samper Pizano, Senator Alvaro Leiva Duran, Msgr Dario Castrillon Hoyos, who is abroad at present, and Antonio Navarro Wolf, representing the guerrilla organization.

M-19's Patino Comments

PA0207192888 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Jun 88 pp 1, 6, 7

["Text" of interview with M-19 leader Otty Patino by German Castro in Cali "last Tuesday"]

[Text] [Castro] Why was Alvaro Gomez chosen to be kidnapped?

[Patino] It could have been someone else, of course. The order even stated that if it were not Gomez it could be some other oligarchic representative. Alvaro Gomez, however, has two connotations: one is historical, the other current: he advocates the use of force in response to the current political situation. One of his latest statements was on the need to fully use the state of siege, overlook options, and basically apply war solutions to their fullest extent within an established period. Then, later on, within the same spirit mentioned by Lopez [not further identified], and after these measures had been implemented and a period of relative normalcy followed based on the implementation of these measures of force, he proposed a reform based on a pact. It would be a reform unlike, of course, any of the strategies proposed by others. The basic issue, however, is the historic reason behind the Colombian oligarchy.

[Castro] What do you expect to get out of Gomez's kidnapping? What are you leading up to?

[Patino] One of the problems with the current situation in Colombia is that everyone talks about the violence that exists and the "dirty war," but no one claims responsibility. It is said that many people are involved in the phenomenon, but no one claims responsibility. That is how the oligarchy has governed this country: with violence whose true promoters never appear. They promote the war but they do not take responsibility. In other words, when we demand the appearance of the people responsible for the "dirty war," we not only mean the paid assassins guilty of disappearances, deaths, and massacres, be they officials or not; we also ask for the true leaders, the true instigators of the war who, in our opinion of course, are the oligarchy.

The term "dirty war" is real. This war—which I will not describe as a clean war because there is no such thing—was clear at least on the subject of who the opponents were. Who created the confusion? The oligarchy, of course. To us a "dirty war" is the extension of a dirty policy.

In short, at play here is the oligarchy's ineptitude, which has not only prevented the solution of already existing conflicts, but of conflicts whose solutions have been delayed for a long time, basic conflicts involving the people's ambitions. It is an oligarchy that has been forced to govern under a state of siege, that has been unable to make in-depth reforms, that has been kept in power thanks to bipartisanism and the use o nilitary force....

[Castro] Fine, but the initial question was, what is the M-19 leading up to in this case?

[Patino] Yes...when a war is confusing it has no solution, and one of the problems that must be clarified in this country is what kind of war this is. I believe, in essence, that it is an oligarchic war against the nation. Therefore, the confrontation between guerrillas and soldiers is not the basic issue. On the one hand this kidnapping was perpetrated to show the country the true essence of the confrontation, but on the other hand it had to be achieved with an action, a war action of course, but one that could be solved in ways other than widening the war.

We also want the country—the oligarchy and the nation—to have another opportunity. I believe that to some extent the current atmosphere in the country will allow us to test new paths to peace. That is the basic emphasis, but another basic emphasis lies in seekng a new path to peace by identifying the forces in conflict.

[Castro] With another dialogue? Do you believe that anyone in Colombia will again believe in a dialogue?

[Patino] I believe that any analysis of what happened in the past must encompass all the actors involved.... In this regard, the responsibilities were shared throughout the process and there must also be a shared responsibility in the analysis, if we want to develop a new system. Of course, an analysis that is made simply to demonstrate that the other side was to blame is useless. For example, before ending his term, Belisario Betancur said that the aim was not to achieve peace, but to deprive the guerrillas of all semblance of legitimacy. This fact, this statement, shows that the search for peace was carried out within a context and strategy of war, because it was an attempt to undermine the legitimacy of the adversary.

In any case, since the process has taken place, one must not consider only such statements. Now, based only on that statement, we could say: "No, the Belisarist peace process was based on bad faith." However, believe me, we are not interested in that type of evaluation. We know, above all, that what we have here are people, sectors in conflict...sectors that are real. There are conflicts between the landowners and the peasants, between the drug traffickers and the state, between the workers and management. There is conflict even among the political forces that want to stop this country from being managed by the oligarchy. There is an oligarchy in conflict with the nation, because it has no solutions to give....All those conflicts can have a different solution if one considers the possibility that there are different solutions, without disregarding the fact that those conflicts will continue to exist.

Thus, our peace proposal is that those conflicts not be ignored, but be resolved, with everyone struggling. We do not want the conservatives to become something different, or the liberals or Marxists to become something different. We want all of them to contribute to the solution, while being true to their own positions, with everyone seeking a new path.

[Castro] But what is that path? That is what the entire country is asking.

[Patino] First, one of the basic problems that we must take into account is that we are not going to develop a complete blueprint. We have to seek the path to that solution by trial and error. We believe that we have to start—and the majority of the people agree—with the premise that the path that was used with Belisario, and that failed, does not reflect reality. Some of the actors and some of the designs failed. In any case, we embarked upon the struggle for peace in the wrong way. Both sides did. And both sides made the wrong plans. We believe that, in any case, at this time, starting from the position that we have to seek new methods, in this search for peace we must be more determined and more valiant than in the war itself, because very often peace is achieved by people who have no power.

In other words, the enemies of peace and the friends of war are people who have an effect in some way. This turns off and frightens many people who, brave as they may be, feel that to get involved in a peace process could hurt them and endanger their lives, for merely speaking of peace. We believe that now, at this time, in this situation, a climate should be created so some sectors of the Colombian people and some sectors in power can also make a path to peace possible and necessary. We believe we should not rule out any alternative that we come up with. Let us give free rein to our imaginations and to our creative possibilities so that we can change the existing blueprints at any time, if those changes lead to paths.

One of the factors that we see as necessary, for example, is that realistic possibilities be proposed.

[Castro] Like what?

[Patino] (Smiles) ...We don't want the peace process to be just an effort for our benefit or for the benefit of any other force, but a joint effort, in which everyone sacrifices something, but gains something. Everyone has to go into this with a minimum of generosity.... There may be the normal mistrust that exists in every process, but there must be a minimum of generosity, of knowing that one has to sacrifice something and of realizing that peace is not the property of anyone in this country. It has to belong to everybody.... And, of course, one has to face

the fact that there are people who do not want peace. Nevertheless, we have to be bold enough to build a new path to peace in our nation, despite those sectors that, because of mistrust and a lack of faith in our nation itself, doubt that this is possible.

[Castro] What role does the kidnapping of Dr Alvaro Gomez play in all this?

[Patino] Look, I believe that President Barco said something that is very true: This is an act of war. I repeat: It is an act of war with very typical characteristics. It was carried out at a time when all avenues and possibilities seemed to have been exhausted, when it seemed as if we had arrived at what is called "the point of no return." I believe this act has led the country to think that either we launch a war—we wonder what the dimensions of this war are and who its protagonists are—or we embark upon a path of peace. The leadership class, above all, is not exempt from the war. All those who have elements of power here—whether the power of the press or political power—cannot be left out of the war. One of the problems—and I believe that Maria Teresa Herran [not further identified] used to say it—is also the handling and the responsibility of the communications media in the preceding peace process. None of the media can say that it was not involved in the management, the manipulation of this process.

[Castro] The question is: What role did the kidnapping of Dr Gomez Hurtado play in all this?

[Patino] It identifies the oligarchy as one of the forces in the conflict. With his capture, those sectors are feeling that they are also at war.... It takes the confrontation deep into the rearguard, to put it in military terms. After all, what is behind the generals? Of course, it is the will of the oligarchy.

[Castro] But, specifically, what do you expect to gain from the kidnapping?

[Patino] First, to put things in their place. That is, behind all this apparently absurd and senseless violence, this kidnapping somehow provides a victim, a protagonist who frees us somewhat from the schizophrenia with which his social class has been managing this country. Thus, this act points up that violence, and, of course, it checks it. It checks it a little bit.

A number of mistakes have been made here regarding the focus of the war. There are those who say that the problem of the war is a problem caused by the military, that is, the military's desire to wage war... and of course, there are military personnel who like war because they benefit from it. They are people who live from war. But that benefit is not enough of an explanation. Then there is a theory that has made the rounds here: that the fight is between militarism and civilianism. In militarism they include the Army and the guerrillas, while civilianism includes the apparently unarmed forces in this country. In other words, the problem of the war involves only those who are armed. However, I repeat, who is behind the generals? It is not just the Pentagon, which is essentially warmongering. Where there are no conditions to promote that warmongering policy, it does not appear out of thin air.... In fact, the Colombian state has no coherent doctrine to cope with the war. That is why it allows the national security doctrine to be applied here. It simply says: "Wage war; end the subversion." How? "With whatever methods are required. The important thing is the results." And in the confrontation, the role of the villains is assigned to the military, and this leads to the creation of this schizophrenia within the country, with the political parties that are apparently seeking solutions on the one hand, and the military in the role of villains on the other.

Gomez Hurtado's capture, however, opened the doors for a dialogue, and I believe those doors must remain open. We do not want this new method to be based on government-guerrilla talks. Before continuing, however, let us examine things that have been said publicly already:

For example, on the "Open Channel" program, Felix Andrade said that he was amazed at the number of missing people there are in Colombia. He said he did not know there were so many. He spoke of some 1,000 people missing. The Human Rights Commission says there are approximately 3,000. Whatever the figure is, there is a very big difference between the way oligarchy reacts to one missing person and its deliberate ignorance of the 3,000 people who are missing in Colombia. The issue of the missing people is only one of many problems... It is not the essential issue, but it is, of course, one of the most serious ones right now. The feeling that entire families, friends, and comrades experience; that uncertainty of not knowing whether a person is alive or dead is one of the most atrocious things.... But that is a phenomenon—we know—that corrupts the Armed Forces, which are taken there by the oligarchy. [sentence as published]

Disappearances and torture are very difficult to stop in Colombia today. They can only be stopped with a high level of political will. We believe there are still reserves of moral values in the nation as a whole and in the Army itself... I mean, let us think there are moral reserves capable of stopping this crazy race, this suicidal race.

[Castro] In one of your communiques recently published by the press, you mentioned the most recent disappearances of M-19 members last April. You spoke of four cases. Is Alvaro Gomez's abduction to a certain extent a kind of revenge?

[Patino] No, of course not. The dissapearances of all those comrades are part of the policy of the regime. The truth is that because their disappearances are so recent and because they are very valuable and dear comrades, we mentioned their cases as an overwhelming example. If [Gomez' abduction were an act of revenge], we would

not have announced his abduction to the public. We would have proposed under-the-table negotiations. In other words, we would not have claimed responsibility for Gomez's abduction. We would have exercised more pressure. If it had been an act of revenge, we would have killed him and that would have been the end of it. That is not the case, however. This action cannot be presented in those terms. In addition, we have given several examples of the oligarchy's behavior.

Our behavior with Dr Gomez has always been respectful. We have never pressured him. We have behaved in a different manner. We could not even say that his capture is a denouncement. It is not an element of negotiation either. I repeat: Gomez's capture is an act of war and was not devised as a propaganda ploy or as a bargaining tool. It is simply and merely an act of war. The fact that this capture can initiate another process is a different story. That is why I think that although it seemed that all hope was lost, this action could bring new hope to the country.

[Castro] It seems to me that there is something under way. The president of the Liberal Party Directorate, for example, is promoting a dialogue with the Conservative Party, the Patriotic Union, and certain labor forces...

[Patino] It seems to me that those solutions have been exhausted. I can say the same thing of Barco's solution and his government-opposition plan, which instead of opening doors for political participation promotes something that has been obsolete for years.

Any pact signed now that excludes the rest of the nation is a pact for war. That is what we told Alvaro Gomez's family when they started with their handkerchiefs and their solidarity with him. We told them: "Why don't we start a process of reconciliation? You can do it. Go and talk to the relatives of all the missing people and with the other victims of this war. Let us start by doing that. Let us start by reaching out to those who are experiencing pain. But let us not initiate a process of reconciliation around one person, because an agreement around Alvaro Gomez alone is an agreement for war. It is an agreement of sides. It increases the idea of sides." We are proposing a different solution, so an oligarchic pact with or without bureaucratic participation is senseless.

The Conservative Party has a broader position on this.

However, regardless of what is currently happening within the traditional parties, Alvaro Gomez' kidnapping represents the country's situation because it has caused a reaction and is linked to several phenomena. Likewise, it calls for an overall solution. There can be no partial solutions, so we face a new situation. That is the goal we sought with this operation, with this action.

Now then, the M-19 believes a democratic regime is the only solution for the country. How would this democracy be achieved? We have discovered the answer bit by bit. We know the oligarchy's core is deeply antidemocratic. We believe we must convince the oligarchy [to change] or defeat it; in other words, eliminate the oligarchy's core. I believe there are people who belong to the privileged sectors and hope for changes in our democracy. These people have their own views; they are capable of accepting the challenge of a democracy... and I am sure Alvaro Gomez can be one of them. He is involved in the confrontation, but on the other side. However, we believe that in a new situation he can make contributions—not as a defender of his class but as a defender of ideologies and ideas that we respect but do not share.... He can help attain a solution with his intelligence, erudition, and experience.

[Castro] What is the M-19's reply to the communique from 12 journalists in which, among other things, they propose a mediation in this kidnapping?

[Patino] I believe they are mistaken. First, because mediation implies negotiation, and Alvaro Gomez' release cannot be negotiated. It is an action that leads to another situation: either a new peace process or a new definition of the conflict. We think it is a conflict between the nation and the oligarchy, as a result of the war that the oligarchy has waged against the nation. Therefore, it is necessary to unleash the nation's will and stop the warmongering trend.

Mediation...the thing is that no one is being considered. No one is qualified to mediate in the conflict. Mediation is possible for certain issues, but the main problem here is not mediation. The issue here is a new decision: either we attain peace or we go to war...or, better said, we step up the current war. That is the crux of the conflict. Which side am I on? That is the question everyone must now answer. Now then, we want—and we emphasize this—a new peace process; but some of those who signed the communique lack the qualifications and courage to do it. You must have courage to become a protagonist of peace. We prefer people who act as interlocutors, not as mediators. We want people who have made pledges, whose positions have been quite clear, who are less hesitant than some of those who signed the communique you mentioned. Anyway, I am not condemning all of them—the list includes valuable people. However, it should be clearly understood that those who decide to join the process must have a different attitude, and not act as mediators.

Furthermore, we do not propose a guerrilla-government dialogue that includes a series of mediations. We do not want to fall back into the old system. The peace problem in Colombia requires the participation of many interlocutors. We need a different system that includes the participation of all sectors—based on their individual positions, specific interests, and ideology—that want to find peace and a solution to the war. We do not demand sacrifices or violations of any sector's ideologies or interests.

[Castro] What will be Alvaro Gomez' fate? What will happen to him? No negotiation or mediation is allowed-' ...will he remain in captivity a long time? What is necessary to attain his liberty? Will his life be in danger at any time?

[Patino] Look, we have said: "Life for the nation is life for Alvaro Gomez." An option of death for the nation, an option of war for the nation is an option of death for Alvaro Gomez. Maybe...maybe...We value life more than anything else. Our struggle has been waged for the sake of life and not death. We will exert ourselves to the utmost to safeguard Alvaro Gomez' life and seek a solution to his situation. However, it all depends on what happens and the circumstances surrounding this case. A position advocating war does not necessarily imply a death sentence for Alvaro Gomez. Not necessarily. In other words, we do not want to define the situation like that. We believe a dialogue is possible even if the solution is war. In other words, we are willing to talk, even with those who state that only a war will solve everything.

We are willing to exchange views if that war is different, clear, and offers solutions and is not as the generals simply view it; that is, that dissatisfaction in this country must be eliminated with bullets, period. They think this is the solution.... This is no solution. It is unrealistic. It is idealistic, impossible. Armed insurrection can only be ended through an absolute change in regime.

[Castro] Then in keeping with the events, the possibility that Dr Gomez will die is highly unlikely. Am I misinterpreting you?

[Patino] No. We will strive to prevent that from happening.... And we are, of course, doing just that. We believe that is the least desirable situation. We are not only thinking about preserving Alvaro Gomez' life. Of course, that is a very touchy subject to many sectors, but we are also thinking about this country's fate. Alvaro Gomez's fate is linked—in his condition as a first-rate protagonist, for good or bad—to our country's fate. We will strive to find a different path for this war; a path of peace, life, and solutions...and we believe Alvaro Gomez—I repeat—can and must play a role in this path.

I will give you an important piece of information: There is currently an exchange of correspondence between Commander Carlos Pizarro and Alvaro Gomez. There is a dialogue between them. Well, let us say it is a constant written dialogue. I am not sure whether dialogue is the correct word.... It is better to say a communication...and what has been written is not tied to [Gomez'] situation. I believe Dr Alvaro Gomez definitely has something called dignity. And we respect that dignity regardless of his status as a prisoner of war. He has enjoyed complete freedom to voice his views on the current situation. Gomez emphasizes that his views do not seek to save his life (in the face of much public attention). Suddenly, that correspondence has become personal. I believe his behavior, the way he has faced this situation, shows us that Gomez is an intelligent person capable of finding the solutions required by the country...within a different framework. For that reason, and as a matter of principle, we are viewing war from a different angle, as less costly, more realistic, and much shorter. We must give the country an alternative to civil war.

Alvaro Gomez says his life is in God's hands. However, there are a number of intermediaries between man and God. Here we are facing a situation, and we expressed this in a communique, in which Alvaro Gomez Hurtado's life represents the life of all Colombians. The life or death of many Colombians is on the line at this very moment. This involves—I repeat—a choice between a war process or a peace process. Those are the specific and clear alternatives before us in this situation and the Colombian oligarchy is called upon to decide between war or peace. This is the reality; [it is] not blackmail or a threat. In other words, Alvaro Gomez' life depends on the oligarchy's decision.... Now, I repeat, we want this to be an option for life for all of Colombia.

I can personally say we have come to know Gomez much better. We want this to be an option for life for him, because we believe he, as an individual amid different circumstances and within a path of changes, could, must, and is interested in giving his contribution... Because he is, after all, a man with values transcending even his social class.

[Castro] Will those contributions by Dr Gomez take place in captivity or freedom, as [Conservative leader] Felio Andrade asked?

[Patino] I believe there is something courageous and valuable in men like Felio Andrade: his loyalty. We might disagree with his views and political background, but we nevertheless feel that certain human values transcend the political values of personal ambitions and the selfish ambitions of politics. We respect such values profoundly, because they also exist among revolutionary organizations and the people. I am talking about the value of loyalty. We seek those values when we are aware of a confrontation and are aware of the dramatism of war, because we are living it.... And men like Felio Andrade, who speak with humility and talk about different paths coupled with the required opening, are people we value profoundly, because they can function in an atmosphere free of political caution [calculo], but saturated with feelings. That is a human condition that is sometimes lost in the world of politics, in the world of war.

[Castro] One gets the impression that, from now on, the steps you take will be determined by events.

[Patino] No, no. We have a goal now. We have to face facts: either we have more war, or we open the way for peace. We are going to work insistently to achieve peace; that the solutions we offer do not give the impression that we seek to bring about a revolutionary process, instead of opening the way for peace. We want to consult with the people. We want to make this consultation as broad as we can. This can be done through the mass media, and we can also use non-public mechanisms, those mechanisms that society uses to transmit information, and which always work—word of mouth, communiques—and which we will be monitoring. That way, our proposal will have a firm basis and, to a certain degree, will take into account the broadest range of opinions.

[Castro] Consultation, paths... all of this sounds like a lengthy process—and a long period of captivity. Is that so?

[Patino] No, no. We want to shorten all the bad times. Captivity is a bad time for the captive and for those who guard him. War is a bad time. If war is unavoidable, we have always maintained that it should last the shortest possible time, because, in any event, there is no such thing as a good war. Wars are either just or unjust, necessary or unnecessary, but the essential feature is always to shorten the time of suffering, whether it be the enemy, ourselves, or someone else who suffers. In addition, we believe any proposal we make must be in terms of a quick solution. We cannot operate at the slow pace at which the oligarchy moves. We are, in essence, interested in attaining a real path.... That is why we do not talk of negotiations, but rather of an opening. And we are not talking of negotiations, because we are not asking for anything. It is a fact that can go in either direction. Our will is directed toward peace. Toward life. In that sense, we feel the kidnapping can last a short time, provided that a free rein is given to the will to live and to enjoy peace that is present in the heart of most Colombians, including those who control the levers of power. This is a first step. We are not suggesting, as Lopez would, that through this act we are going to achieve a revolution by decree, nor anything like it. Nor are we demanding certain reforms in exchange for this man's life. We simply want to release the energy of peace and life.

[Castro] In that case, would goodwill gestures on the part of the country's leaders be a reason to consider freeing Gomez?

[Patino] Those gestures would have to be converted into a concrete first step, so they become more than mere gestures. They have to be proposals and deeds.

With regard to proposals, the leader of M-19 is going to issue a proposal within a few days, a concrete proposal that will attempt to synthesize a series of proposals and consultations currently underway, which we hope will increase during the coming days.

[Castro] Consultations with whom?

[Patino] With the whole country. They are currently taking place. They are in progress.

[Castro] Then it is a question of consultation rather than mediation? Is that the point?

[Patino] Look, we do not reject international mediation. At present, [M-19 leader] Antonio Navarro Wolf is working to bring about an initial mediation, which consists of trying to get an International Red Cross representative to visit the "Martires de Uraba" campsite, to verify the prisoner-of-war treatment being given Gomez Hurtado. That would be an initial mediation, one which could be expanded later to include other international representatives acting as witnesses, or guarantors, or whatever, of any agreements that may be reached. However, as a first step, which is of interest to the whole world, there is the issue of Gomez Hurtado's captivity and treatment.

[Castro] Have you discussed these matters with him? What is his opinion? What are his feelings?

[Patino] For starters, it is very difficult to convey the opinion of a person who, first, is on the other side, and second, is in the position he is in. Furthermore, I believe that, out of respect for the man, it would be inappropriate to give his opinion.

[Castro] Well, in any case, have you talked to him about these matters? Have you kept him informed?

[Patino] Yes, of course, of course. And I feel his sense of experience, his pragmatism, have helped us a great deal.

[Castro] In what way?

[Patino] He knows the situation well, and he also knows this country well. In any case, it is not by chance that the oligarchy has been able to dominate Colombia because of [other people's] pure ignorance. Of course, there are people who are totally oblivious to the real-life situation in Colombia, who wish to remain out of touch with reality, but that is not the case with Gomez. He is a scholar who has been active in all fields, including economics and politics. This man is neither a mere dilettante, nor a philosopher, but rather a person who has delved deeply into this country's problems; from his side, of course. But, regardless of the side he is on, his feet are firmly planted in reality. He is a realist and, in that respect, he is an asset to us.

ELN Kidnaps Two; One 'Apparently' U.S. Citizen

PA0107201088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMt 1 Jul 88

[Text] Two executives from foreign oil companies in Colombia, Jack Cumbillo, apparently an American, and Fidel Angelo Estipino, an Italian, were kidnapped in different places by National Liberation Army [ELN] guerrillas. Cumbillo is chief contractor for the Texas Petroleum Company and was kidnapped by rebels while boarding a helicopter in (Sabana de Torres), Santander Department.

Recent ELN Activities

PA0107212888 [Editorial Report] Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1215 GMT on 1 July carries two reports, totaling 3 minutes, on activities of the National Liberation Army, ELN.

The first report states that ELN guerrilla forces blew up part of the natural gas pipeline in the San Onofre area, Sucre Department, and that the explosion set fire "considerable"

amounts of oil. The report added that "the extent of the damage has not yet been determined." The report adds that repair crews would be sent to the site immediately.

The second report states that a column of 20 armed men, believed to be ELN guerrillas, attacked a national customs post in Caracoli, El Cesar Department. The report states that guerrillas seized an undetermined number of small arms and a "considerable" amount of money. The report adds that while in Caqueta Department, Colombian Army troops inflicted two casualties on the guerrillas and rescued Angel Martinez Rodriguez, a cattle rancher who had been kidnapped by a FARC unit.

Paraguay

Taylor Drug Comment 'Setback' to Opposition

PY0407183088 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish
4 Jul 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Failure of the Irregulars"]

[Excerpts] We can imagine how unhappy the non-participating, irregular opposition feels in the wake of news that was made public recently.

At a time when that opposition was pressing their campaign to mar the prestige of Paraguayan democracy, denying the popular roots of the government, it has taken some setbacks. The cause for these setbacks cannot be found in political influence, reasons of state, or vested interests, but in an honest recognition of Paraguayan reality and the merit of the government's efforts to develop the country through a firm policy of democratic liberalization that is uncompromising with demagogy and extremism. This policy can, however, guarantee all rights recognize by law. [passage omitted]

Let us begin by recalling a minor, but highly significant, anecdote: The frank compliment of U.S. Clyde Taylor to police personnel in charge of drug trafficking control for their effectiveness and dilgence. This is a setback the irregular opposition was not expecting, believing that the current U.S. ambassador was some sort of new version of Robert White, he who left behind a sad memory. As far as we are concerned, the police action praised by Ambassador Taylor has confirmed what we have said in previous editorials about the drug problem.

We have contended all along that the fight against drug trafficking is costly, complex, and difficult. This fight cannot successfully be waged without adequate material, economic, technical, and human resources, which calls for the assistance of the rich countries where the main drug consumers reside. A few weeks after we said that, there came the news that an important amount of seized cocaine had to be burned in the furnace of a private ceramics factory. To make the news more interesting, it was reported that the operation was attended by an agent from the DEA office which was recently reopened after having been closed for quite a while by a unilateral decision. This agent, from the world's first democratic power, personally watched more than 200 bags of cocaine being burned in the modest facilities of a Paraguayan craftsman, since special facilities for that purpose do not exist in the country. Our readers should recall that, writing about the country's northern region—which is bisected by an important stretch of the Paraguay River as far down as Bahia Negra and where there are large expanses from the Bolivian border to the Brazilian border, especially the Amambay zone—we have noted the need for observation and surveillance aircraft, helicopters for vigilance and repression, fast boats to patrol the river along the aforementioned stretch, all-terrain vehicles for land operations, and appropriate furnaces to burn the drugs seized. This complementary assistance to a relatively less-developed country is in fact necessary because it cannot spare funds in that regard without diverting them from more pressing needs. Assistance is, in this regard, not only a matter of solidarity, but of mutual convenience. We believe that this has now become more obvious. [passage omitted]

Taylor Comments Welcomed

PY0207183888 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish
2 Jul 88 p 14

[Words in boldface as published]

[Text] The U.S. Ambassador, Mr Taylor, recently told news media that "**now**there is more willingness to struggle against drug trafficking." We want to welcome this acknowledgement, which has come in the wake of the spectacular police operation related to the recently discovered cocaine "cache" (the word that is in fashion nowadays). However, the ambassador's remark seems to mean that if **now**there is **more** willingness to struggle against drug trafficking, it is because **before** there was **less** willingness to do so. Furthermore, it appears to mean that we are hastening to fulfill our duty as if we were frightened of something or **someone**.

This is not the case. We are not **more** willing to work **now**; there is simply **more**drug trafficking to fight and **more**-drugs moving through our country.

Using Paraguay as a stop-over is a new development prompted by the fact that the old channels are getting more and more hazardous because of the international struggle against narcotics. Thus, the traffickers are looking upon our country as a shortcut, an alternative to the well-known routes.

The prospects are that the loss of a "cache" will not discourage the drug traffickers from making undue use of our territory. In their business, the drugs seized in Paraguay are part of the "risk margin" of their huge international operations and will affect very little of their fabulous final earnings. Thus, we can expect other attempts to use our country, and this does call for **more willingness**to help Paraguay effectively fulfill its commitments to the international struggle against this terrible business.

Peru

Fisheries Minister Leon Tenders Resignation

PY0107201088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Excerpt] This morning Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria confirmed that he had tendered his resignation to the president of the Republic. He said that the president of the Council of Ministers supports him in his decision.

[Begin recording] [Reporter, in progress] ...your resignation to the fisheries ministry as a result of the incidents of 28 June? [reference to a quesion-and-answer session in the Chamber of Deputies with cabinet members during which Leon and a legislator engaged in a heated debate]

[Leon] Yes, I tendered my resignation to the president of the Council of Ministers.

[Reporter] Is it as a result of the incidents of 28 June?

[Leon] Well, in relation to what happened 3 days ago in the Chamber of Deputies, I must acknowledge—as I already did—that I overreacted. I am aware of my position as a representative of the people, as a minister of state. I am aware of the example we must set before the country, espcially at a moment when there is so much violence, chaos, agitation, and disorder.

I also said that it was the reaction of a man who has nothing to hide in his life, a man who has to defend his honor. The incident was the straw that broke the camel's back; I reacted emotionally rather than rationally.

Therefore, in view that my behavior could somhow harm the government's image or create certain discomfort to the president of the Council of Ministers, I offered him my resignation on the spot, and he supported me. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Garcia Refuses Resignation

PY0207023288 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Excerpt] During today's cabinet meeting, President Alan Garcia confirmed Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria in his position. The cabinet reportedly also discussed the salary increase for public and private employees. Here is the report.

The Council of Ministers met in the government palace today. The meeting began at 1130, and on this occasion President Alan Garcia confirmed Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria in his position. Leon had tendered his resignation due to an incident in the National Congress.

In the afternoon, President Garcia accompanied Minister Leon Alegria to the main door of the government palace, where they held a cordial conversation for a few minutes. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Comments on Strikes, Budget

PY0207024888 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2259 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Speech by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti on 1 July; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] My friends, events that have occurred in the nation in the last few days require that we mediate them and make the necessary calls to those who are to be held responsible. Thus, we must once again clearly establish the guidelines we have adopted to govern the country.

The Montevideo transportation sector strike is one of the events we must meditate and analyze. Without having to discuss the various points of view regarding the salary issue, we clearly realize that the methods adopted in this strike, which began with those pernicious surprise stoppages, have undoubtedly harmed the people.

Through the Labor Ministry, the government attempted, as is its duty, to resolve the problem. When the situation became unbearable, the government ordered that the law be complied with and that the transportation sector act in accordance with its position as an essential service. This decision was effective and, despite the union's obstinate opposition, the rights of the people were respected, the sector functioned adequately, and the city was not paralyzed. [passage omitted]

The radical unions criticized us unceasingly and deemed the decision to declare transportaion an essential service an attempt to disrespect the right to strike. This was not so. The law foresees this possibility, and the international organizations accept it as legal. We have and will continue to respect the right to strike.

This right, however, is not unlimited, and ceases to exist when the people's rights are disrespected and the strike prevents the people from attending their jobs normally.

Despite the difficulties faced by the people, and thanks to the unselfish cooperation of the bus owners, we have managed to overcome the crisis. This shows the union leaders that we will not yield to their pressure. We have not and will not give in to their pressure.

Other people, however, call for more strict and severe government measures. We must convince them that the government feels strong, although it is carefull to not act arbitrarily. [passage omitted]

The important thing is to be strong and firm in adopting attitudes. It is not necessary to be aggressive. Firmness is what counts. [passage omitted]

Regarding the current strike, the government has again implemented legal measures in accordance with logical reasoning and after having studied all possible solutions. [passage omitted]

We have acted as a firm government that does not become intoxicated by authority and thus adopts arbitrary and forceful attitudes, as the radical sectors would like us to do because this would justify their violent methods.

Our great challenge was to defeat those sectors through legal means. We can say that the sectors have been defeated because they have not succeeded in paralyzing the capital or the country despite all the harm they have been causing the people.

They have been defeated because this strike did not grant them anything. The Salary Council will establish the amount of the new salaries in due time. The salaries the sector has already lost, however, and the severe sanctions, which have been applied through the declaration of essential service, are irreversible.

In a way, governments are like people. Some people believe that they have a strong personality because they are ill-tempered. But ill-tempered people or governments are not necessarily firm. To be firm is to fulfill one's duties, to use will and fairness in the difficult moments, find peaceful solutions whenever possible, and to resort to force only when there is no other alternative.

Governments are like people. Temperamental and hard governments can be applauded in certain situations, but lose prestige when the problems remain unresolved and the conflicts become worse and finally destroy the prestige of the authorities.

What we need is strength and moderaration. That is why this government feels strong and is forced to remind the people that it has not lost face in this conflict. [passage omitted]

This government wants peace. It does not want to be the winner in every conflict.

It is sometimes said that democracies are weak. That is not true. Democracies are tolerant, as they should be, but not weak. This is why we will continue to abide by the law. [passage omitted]

I assure the people that we will continue to defend their interests with all the means available to us. There may be difficulties, because we cannot make miracles and create 1,000 bus drivers, but we assure you of two important things: We will not allow the country to be paralyzed, and we will not allow ire to prevail. Faithfull to these principles, we will succeed in pushing the country forward.

We now must discuss another issue. We must discuss the national budget, which was presented to Congress last night. [passage omitted]

In the second year of each term in office, Congress prepares the budget and lists salaries, expenses, and investments. Then, each year, the government reviews the previous years' expenses and presents the budget balance and new investments.

The Constitution allows the government to introduce some urgent modifications to the budget. Lately, however, we have fallen into the vice of transforming the review of the previous year's budget into a new budget containing 600 or 700 new articles, of discussing all its details, and of modifying all salaries. This is ridiculous. [passage omitted]

The review of last year's budget should only discuss the salaries of certain sectors, not all the salary increases. [passage omitted]

We believe it necessary to review the salaries of the military and police sectors, whose salaries require readjustments. [passage omitted]

Although the purchasing power of the other salaries has been increasing as a result of the 4-monthly salary readjustment policy, those have not. Therefore, we must clearly establish the difference between salary readjustments that will continue to be made (?every 4 months) in an attempt to maintain and improve, if possible, the purchasing power of the salaries, and the review of last year's budget regarding salaries. This review is aimed at improving the situation of the sectors whose salaries' purchasing power remained behind compared to other salaries. [passage omitted]

This government will not include new special salary increases in the national budgets. In the future, governments will probably adopt the same policy.

It is illogical to use half of the congressional sessions to discuss and review previous year's budgets, without ever reaching any positive result. The country must change in many ways, and this is something which is already changing. We must put an end to that vice. [passage omitted]

How do the generous politicians who are now promising further salary increases think the country will finance the increases they are promising? Will they be ready to increase the cattle raising sector taxes? Will they create new taxes for the industrial and trade sector? [passage omitted]

In the last few months, the country has been experiencing a dangerously accelerated pre-electoral fever, and the people have reasons for many complaints.

To a certain extent, we understand that. We realize that some good people complain about low salaries. We realize that the country is poor. Uruguay is not Switzerland; it is not the FRG; we are not a developed country, and we know it.

Some other people, however, utter similar complaints, but only for electoral reasons, just to harm the government. [passage omitted]

Despite them, however, we will continue to grow. Concrete facts can show that. Despite all difficulties, this year the country will export $1.3 billion. When we took power in 1985, the country exported only $850 [as heard]. [passage omitted]

The country has been experiencing a process of growth and modernization. Uruguay has grown 12 percent in the last 3 years. This is not enough, but it is encouraging. The modernization process has begun. This process is not faster, however, because some sectors resent changes. [passage omitted]

We know that several salaries are still too low. The salaries of all public employees, however, have been increased by an average of 23 percent. We also know that the purchasing power of salaries has increased. [passage omitted]

There can be no miracles, and most Uruguayans understand that. Nonetheless, we have been moving forward and will continue to move forward as the developed countries have done. Does anyone believe that the FRG or Japan, which were destroyed by the war, were able to rebuild their economy without a great deal of patience and effort?

That is why we will continue to tread the current path.

Despite the stubborn recurrence of conflicts that harm national wealth and punish the workers by making them lose salaries that they will never be able to recover, and despite the easy promises of the demagogues who are again appearing on the national scene, we will succeed in overcoming these difficulties.

We will fight those who sponsor conflicts with firmness. I guarantee that they will never succeed in paralyzing the country as they have not succeeded so far. They can make things difficult for us, as they have been doing, but they will not stop the country. The country will continue to grow.

We will oppose those who make easy promises by calmly urging the people at large to continue making the honest efforts they have been making so far.

No one beleives in those who promise increases without providing the means to finance the increases and who criticize the government for not granting salary increases while criticizing the government for increasing public expenditures. Who can believe in those contradictory criticisms?

My friends, we have restored democracy. We have healed wounds. We have preserved peace, and we have managed to grant economic growth despite domestic and international problems.

No one can say that this government has disrespected the rights of the people.

Again I assure you that although there is still a long way to go, we are treading the right path. Let us move forward, then. Let us grind our teeth at the effort, but let us not lose our tranquillity and serenity. Let us not be overwhelmed by the bitter and angry, because they are the minority. Let us continue to serenely defend our freedom and our rights, the rights which have been so much endangered by the same people who now preach anarchy.

People who come from abroad show great respect for what we have achieved. They find Uruguay more stable than its neighbors. Let us be conscious that this is the result of the efforts of all the people, not only of the government. Let us not be diverted from our path.

Uruguay is a democratic, just, and moderate country and will continue to be so. Do not doubt it.

Good night and thank you.

Labor Minister on 'Radical Union Sectors'

PY0407151588 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Labor and Social Welfare Minister Hugo Fernandez Faingold has said that the PIT-CNT has taken too long in doing something about some extremely radical union sectors. He said that the PI-CNT leadership has not always been able to exert its authority over these hardened groups to lead them toward a more wise attitude.

During the television program "Priority" on Channel 10, Minister Fernandez Faingold said that he had noticed that some union sectors have lately used extremely aggressive language. We will never be able to get along with whoever behaves like this, he said.

The minister stated that this is not a problem of being communists or of belonging to combatant sectors, but of acting with wisdom. He added that some unions are seeking to irritate and frustrate the people in order to disrupt the democratic order, and this same objective can also be observed in some political groups which sometimes agree with these radical union sectors.

In the face of these facts, we will have to stand up to whoever tries to disrupt the normal life of the country—regardless of which sector it is, the minister said.

Venezuela

Foreign Minister Deplores Iranian Plane Downing

PA0507014988 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The downing of an Iranian plane by U.S. forces has caused great international commotion. [passage omitted] Meanwhile, Venezuelan Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo deplored the incident and stressed the danger that this represents for the world's civil aviation:

[Begin Nava recording] This type of incident in which such a large number of lives is lost must be deplored. Regardless of the number of victims, this is an act that must be lamented. I think that it shows the grave tension in the area, which can result in errors, errors of this kind. I want to reiterate that from the humanitarian point of view, this is an incident that worries us. Regardless of the countries involved in the conflict, I think that this must be criticized, basically because the safety of the world's civil aviation is affected by this. [end recording]

Nava on Contadora, Debt, Group of 8, Panama

PA0107143088 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 Jun 88 pp 17

["Part I" of report by Alberto Carbot on interview with Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo—date and place not given]

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo told this newspaper that the Contadora Group "is not a dead organization, because each day without war in Central America is one more day of life for that organization." He warned that no Latin American country can remain a harmless spectator when faced with the evolving Central American problem, "because a war can drag a whole continent down." The diplomat said that Contadora and its Support Group act as "a dam that holds back ambitions to dominate the area; however, these outside forces still have an effect and "prevent area countries from obtaining the right solutions to their own political problems."

Later he referred to the need for democracy to prevail in Latin America as the basic guarantee for development. Nava Carrillo spoke about the foreign and regional debt and the need for creditors to understand that "starving countries cannot be expected to pay a contracted debt, more so because it has been the very political blindness of creditors that has caused this situation."

Nava Carrillo said that it "is wrong" to pretend to believe that Venezuela is against Panama reentering the Group of Eight because Venezuela has always maintained a position of solidarity with the organization's decision in Cartagena. "The case of Panama's reentry into the Group of Eight will solely depend on the development of the current political situation," he said.

He referred to the meeting on Monday, to the ideas expressed by President Miguel de la Madrid before the ministers who are members of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination at Los Pinos.

"We had the opportunity to talk with President de la Madrid, who kindly listened to each of our opinions on the progress of the Central American negotiating process. He summarized and also gave us his impressions on the results of the Oaxaca meeting, and he pointed to the need to encourage the Group of Eight to become not only a forum that makes proposals, but a dynamic forum that is able—as it has been to date—to develop and carry out actions, using the Acapulco declaration as its charter."

The Venezuelan foreign minister outlined the goals of each of the organizations that comprise the Group of Eight and Contadora and its Support Group.

"The Group of Eight's goals are different from those of Contadora, which was created to bring peace to Central America. Even though its basic purpose is to search for peace, another basic goal is the defense of democracy, to ensure that democratic forms of government will prevail among its member countries."

Is this why Panama was suspended?

"We already stated our position toward that country at Cartagena. We believe that the basic reasons for concluding that Panama no longer met the conditions for it to remain part of the Group of Eight are still fully valid. Venezuelans, in particular, believe that democracy and the exercise of human rights cannot be underestimated as a result of a too narrowly conceived principle of nonintervention. Encouraging democracy, as we understand it, is the result of the exercise of a political right to the free determination and selection of forms of government, but it is not really in conflict with maintaining the principle of nonintervention. In Latin America, each country has its own beliefs, and this we understand perfectly. Let us not force a change in criteria. One cannot always proclaim the ascendancy of the principle of nonintervention when human rights, the exercise of political rights, and the encouragement of democracy are at stake. This is why I say that the situation in Panama with regard to the Group of Eight depends a lot on Panamanians, on the political development of the current situation. [no end quotation mark as published]

Comments on Debt Problem

PA0407131288 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 30 Jun 88 p 18

["Part II" of report by Alberto Carbot on interview with Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo—date and place not given]

[Text] I do not think we Latin Americans have lost the past decade, because the search for development and integration is not restricted to this period of time. The continent, however, has suffered serious economic setbacks because of the foreign debt. The concept of coresponsibility should have as its objective the search for new actions. [The Group of] Eight is aware that a strategy is necessary to implement the new methodology regarding the foreign debt, Venezuelan Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo said. He warned:

(Nava Carrillo) "Our countries will honor their commitment to cancel the debt, even though we are in a suffocating situation that could kill us in the long run.

We cannot sacrifice our future. Industrialized nations, our main creditors, are aware that if this situation continues, there will be negative consequences for all. They are also aware that business does not entail dealing among the poor, but among the rich.

"If we cannot carry out our development plans and if Latin Americans' purchasing power continues to diminish quickly because of the debt, I do not know what industrialized nations will do with the products they manufacture: Will they eat them themselves, or will they send them into outer space? From this point of view, the debtor-creditor relationship is fundamental, and this is what we are looking for."

(Carbot) During the Oaxaca meeting, the Group of Eight had the opportunity to talk with the people responsible for the main Latin American organizations, including ALADI, the IBD, ECLA, and SELA. What were the conclusions reached?

(Nava Carrillo) "The foreign ministers reached three conclusions. First, the need to coordinate activities, which is a result of the SELA meeting in Caracas, to complement the capacity to act and to avoid duplication of efforts. Nowadays, regional organizations are fully aware of the concept of integration, which began after the Acapulco declaration. Organizations depend on decisions made by all of their their members; however, their ability to do analysis or make recommendations should be more positive. Those organizations should bear in mind that the conclusions reached by the Group of Eight—as generator of ideas for the rest of the continent—include ideas for all Latin Americans. As President Miguel de la Madrid said, the group is a fundamental, creative body, which is how it was conceived by its founders in Acapulco. Hence, organizations should respond to this new concept of integration, based on the fact that the Group of Eight is recognized as a political commitment of governments."

(Carbot) For example, it has been said that the Group of Eight members were considering writing off the interregional debt to set an example for their international creditors? Is this true?

(Nava Carrillo) "It is necessary to bear in mind that the origin and characteristics of the interregional debt are different from the foreign debt. The first one is a debt resulting from trade exchanges between private institutions, among businessmen, in which some payments have been delayed. This is not the same, for example, as the debt incurred as a result of the San Jose Pact, where there have been no problems and where the funds [obtained] are used for the development of those same regions.

"We must seek appropriate mechanisms that, should they fail to allow total payment, would at least allow us to establish a commercial flow that, as I have pointed out, hinders trade exchange." [sentence as received]